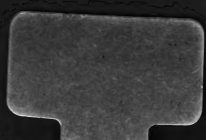


THE
ISLE OF WIGHT

REV^D EDMUND VENABLES, M.A.

Joseph H. H. H.
H. H. H.
H. H. H.



Map catalogued

The Isle of Wight

A GUIDE

TO THE

ISLE OF WIGHT

ITS

APPROACHES AND PLACES OF RESORT

WITH NUMEROUS

WALKS, DRIVES, AND EXCURSIONS

AND A

GENERAL SYNOPSIS

OF ITS

TOPOGRAPHY—AGRICULTURE—PRODUCTS AND MANUFACTURES—

LOCAL AFFAIRS, CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS—ANTIQUITIES—

ARCHITECTURE—HISTORY—GEOLOGY—ZOOLOGY—AND BOTANY

BY THE

REV. EDMUND VENABLES, M.A.

AND EMINENT LOCAL NATURALISTS

LONDON

EDWARD STANFORD, 6 CHARING CROSS

1860

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P R E F A C E .

THE number of books professing to direct the tourist to the chief beauties of the Isle of Wight, and to point out to him its principal objects of interest, is already so great, that the publication of another work with the same end in view may seem almost to need an apology. Numerous, however, as the Isle of Wight Guides are, it has been felt by many that they have hitherto hardly kept pace with the progress of modern research, and that there is still room for one which, while it presents a faithful picture of every part of the island, and furnishes details essential to the rapid holiday-maker and ordinary seeker after the picturesque, may also promote and direct the habits of observation now happily becoming so general, and supply such information respecting the history, antiquities, and architecture of the island, as well the natural treasures it contains, as may satisfy every taste, and aid the tourist in the pursuit of his favourite science, whatever it be.

To supply this deficiency is the object of the following pages ; and if the honest endeavours of the compilers to aid the visitor to the Isle of Wight in an intelligent appreciation of this favoured spot, by setting before him a faithful picture of the island as it is, as well as the chief

points of interest in its past history, and directing his attention to the rich field it offers for the investigations of the student of the various branches of Natural History, prove successful in rendering a visit to its shores more agreeable and instructive : if the pleasure of the sea-side holiday is increased, and the feelings of *ennui* and weariness which too often hang heavily on the visitors to our watering-places are dispelled by discovering how many healthy and legitimate objects of research are within their reach : if a love for the study of Nature is awakened, and a taste for any of the sister sciences which may here be pursued to so great advantage called into existence, or strengthened : and, above all, if a habit of reverential examination of the wonderful works of the Allwise Creator is called out or fostered by anything here written, our fondest hopes will be realised, and we shall feel that our labour has not been misdirected, or the time devoted to the production of the work spent in vain.

A glance at the table of contents will put the reader in possession of the plan of the work : it may, however, be well to say a few words in explanation of the arrangement adopted.

The scheme is, as far as possible, a *natural* one—that pointed out by the natural divisions and configuration of the island. After briefly describing the various routes by which it may be reached, and supplying such preliminary information as to hotels, conveyances, routes, distances, &c., as may be necessary for the convenience of the tourist, the work proceeds to fulfil the promise of its title by guiding the visitor to every part of the island in succession. It happens that the places of principal resort are situated most conveniently as starting points for the investigation of the several districts of the island : taking, therefore, each of

these as a temporary centre, longer or shorter excursions have been arranged—some, mere strolls of a few miles, occupying an hour or two; others, expeditions requiring good part of a day—by which the whole area is embraced, and the tourist led to its remotest corners. No portion has been left unexamined; nor (it is hoped) any object of interest passed over without notice, and the visitor is thus enabled to test, and it can hardly be doubted to confirm,—the truth of the opinion expressed by one of our first living naturalists—that “the *whole* island is most seductive.” *

It is hardly necessary to say, that though the work embraces the whole island, and no one who has time at his disposal and a capacity for enjoyment will regret devoting two or three weeks to a leisurely examination of every part, each section is complete in itself, so that those whose time or circumstances restrict them to the choice of one sojourning place, will find all they require in the portion devoted to the particular district of which it forms the centre. Cross-references, usually so perplexing, have been as much as possible avoided; though in so limited an area it has not been practicable to dispense with them altogether.

Every place described has been visited, many repeatedly; and though in not a few instances, instead of attempting a disadvantageous competition, the admirable descriptions of others have been purposely adopted, this has never been done without previously verifying the accuracy of the picture, in which expressions which appeared to convey a false idea have occasionally been altered, and the passage so modified as to make it subservient to the object of the work, viz. to set before the minds of strangers at a distance, or tourists through the island, a true re-

* Sir W. Jardine, “Life of Strickland,” p. xxiii.

presentation of its varied scenery, painted neither in too vivid nor too faint hues.

The concluding division of the work supplies such information concerning the history, antiquities, statistics, agriculture *, products, trade, &c. of the Isle of Wight, as it was thought would prove interesting to the tourist or visitor. A habit of observation is one of the most to be coveted possessions, nor is there anything too unimportant to call it into exercise. The particulars here supplied suggest many subjects of inquiry into the past state and present condition of the island and its inhabitants, which if pursued can hardly fail to prove interesting and profitable.

The succeeding sections on the geology, natural history, and botany of the island, are in many points of view the most valuable, as to not a few they will prove the most inviting portion of the work. The geology has been so ably treated by previous writers, that there was little to be done but to compress and arrange what they supplied ; but in the other departments the field was comparatively untrodden. It is the first time that any account of the various departments of natural history and botany has been included in an Island Guide ; and many future tourists will have reason to unite in my expression of thanks to the friends who have so excellently seconded my wishes, sparing neither time nor pains to produce a brief but faithful conspectus of the natural treasures which are here offered in such rich abundance. As for myself, it is difficult for me to convey an adequate sense of my obligations to the friends who have so generously allowed me to profit by

* For the valuable remarks on the agriculture of the island I am indebted to Mr. Robert B. Sewell.

their local scientific knowledge, especially to Mr. Alexander G. More, of Bembridge, who, besides contributing the sections on the mammalia, birds, reptiles, fishes, lepidoptera, and flowers of the island, has made himself responsible as editor of this part of the work. Mr. George Guyon has furnished the chapter on the coleoptera, and the land and freshwater shells, aided in the latter department by Sir William Jardine, Mr. Hanley, and Mr. Albert Hambrough, to the last of whom, in conjunction with Miss Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, I am indebted for the list of Isle of Wight seaweeds. Others, whose names are well known in the scientific world, have furnished valuable contributions, among whom may be specially mentioned Mr. Frederick Smith, of the British Museum, who has sent some interesting notes on the entomology of the island, and the Rev. Andrew Bloxam, and Rev. T. Salwey, who have supplied the lists of rare mosses, lichens, and fungi.

The private friends, especially the clergy of the island, to whom I am indebted for important information, and the correspondents personally unknown to me, whose prompt and courteous attention to my applications claim my warmest thanks, are too numerous to be particularised. But for their aid, so ungrudgingly rendered, the book could not have been what it now is,—still far from what I wish it; but unless I am greatly deceived by a blind parental fondness, more nearly approaching what such a work should be, than any heretofore published on the same subject.

In spite of all my care, I fear that there are not a few mistakes still to be corrected, and deficiencies to be supplied; but the time is now come when, with all its faults, the book must go forth to the world; and I will only add, how much I shall feel obliged if every reader who derives

amusement or instruction from these pages, will in return make known to me all the errors he may detect, however trivial some of them may appear, in order that a future edition may more nearly attain to that which constitutes the chief value of such a work—accuracy of information.

EDMUND VENABLES.

Hawthorndene, Bonchurch,

June 1, 1860.

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Places.	From Ryde.	From Cowes.	From Newport.	From Ventnor.	From Sandown.
Alum Bay . . .	20	16	13	23	22
Appuldurcombe . . .	10½	11½	7½	2	6
Arreton . . .	8	9	4	7	5
Ashey . . .	4	10	5	7	4
Bembridge . . .	8	16	11	10	4
Binstead . . .	1	11	6	13	7
Blackgang . . .	16	14½	9½	6	12
Bonchurch . . .	11¼	15½	11	1	5
Brading . . .	4	12	8	8	2
Brighstone . . .	14	12	7	13	12
Brooke . . .	17	15	10	16	16
Calbourne . . .	12	10	5	15	14
Carisbrook . . .	8	6	1	10	10
Cowes, West . . .	12	. .	5	15	14
Cowes, East . . .	8½	. .	5	15	14½
Freshwater Gate . . .	18	15	11	21	20
Gatcombe . . .	10	8	3	8	9
Godshill . . .	11	10½	6	5	6
Luccombe . . .	10¼	16	12	2	4
Needles . . .	21	18	14	24	23
Newchurch . . .	6	10½	6	6	3½
Newport . . .	7	5	. .	10	9
Newtown . . .	12	10	6½	16½	15½
Niton . . .	15½	14	8½	5	11
Ryde . . .	. .	12	7	12	6
Sandown . . .	6	14	10	6	
Sandrock . . .	16½	14½	9	4½	10½
Shalfleet . . .	13	11	6	16	15
Shanklin . . .	9	15	10	3½	2½
Shorwell . . .	12	10	5	11	11
St. Helen's . . .	4	15	11	10	4
St. Lawrence . . .	14	16	11	2	8
Ventnor . . .	12	15	11	. .	6
Whippingham . . .	7	2	3	14	11
Whitwell . . .	13	14	9	4	9
Wootton Bridge . . .	3	4	3½	10	9
Yarmouth . . .	17	12	10¼	20¼	19¼
Yaverland . . .	5½	14½	9½	8	1

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

Page 2, line 18, for "wells" read "well"

Page 7, line 2 from bottom ; page 9, line 1 from bottom ; page 14, line 7. Since the first sheets of this work were printed, Coaches have commenced running twice a day between Newport, Yarmouth, and Freshwater Gate, in connection with those from Ryde, Cowes, and Ventnor. Coaches have also been established between Ventnor and Ryde in connection with the Appuldurcombe Park Hotel, which will be opened for the reception of company by the time this work is published.

Page 18, line 20, for "oak," read "oak"
" line 29, for "soil," read "soil;"

Page 20, line 2 from bottom, for "Bembridge Foreland" read "White Cliff Bay"

Page 21, line 2, add "White Cliff Bay"

Page 37, line 24, for "Gurnet" read "Gurnard"

Page 51, line 20, for "or" read "on"

Page 56, line 23, dele "as" and " ,"

Page 64, line 3, for "Mrs. A'Court Holmes" read "Lady Heytesbury"

Page 94, line 4 from bottom, for "stand the pinnacled towers" read "stands the pinnacled tower"

Page 101, line 12, for "and Godshill" read "Godshill, and"

Page 104, line 7 from bottom, for "up," read "up"

Page 108, line 2, for "Hon. W. A.

A'Court Holmes" read "Lord Heytesbury."

Page 110, line 4, for "St. Swithin" read "St. Swithun"

Page 156, line 25, for "considereble" read "considerable"

Page 166, line 4 from bottom, for "breakwater" read "breakwaters"

Page 168, line 6 from bottom, for "Commander" read "Commodore"

Page 170, line 17, for "crustaceous" read "cretaceous"

Page 196, line 3 from bottom, for "nomme" read "nom"

Page 206, line 8, for "further" read "and further"

Page 208, line 27, for "Wreath Bay" read "Reeth Bay"

Page 278, line 16, for "contrast" read "the contrast"

Page 290, line 4 from bottom, for "gault," read "gault"

Page 300, line 26, for "waves," read "waves"

Page 310, line 25, for "tide;" read "tide,"

Page 314, line 4 from bottom, for "Captain Crozier" read "Admiral Crozier"

Page 319, line 28, for "Ventnor" read "Newtown"

Page 328, line 27, for "barenness" read "bareness"

Page 381, line 1, for "persons" read "farms"

Page 406, line 18, for "Amazons" read "Amazon"

GUIDE TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

PART I.

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I.

THE APPROACHES TO THE ISLAND.

Railways and Sea Passages — 1. Portsmouth to Ryde and Cowes —
2. Southampton to Cowes and Ryde — 3. Lymington to Yarmouth.

ACCESS to the Isle of Wight is now so easy, and it is brought within so few hours of the metropolis, that it provokes an involuntary smile to hear of a journey to London being regarded by the islanders in Queen Elizabeth's time as "an East Indian voyage," not to be undertaken without sore compulsion, and to be solemnly prepared for by "making their wills." Even in the memory of those now living the journey from London was long and tedious, involving a stage coach ride of many hours to Southampton or Portsmouth, succeeded by a voyage of very uncertain duration, the passage of the wherries being dependent on wind and tide, which would, not unfrequently, forbid the crossing altogether.

The establishment of the steam boat service between Southampton and Cowes in 1817, succeeded in 1825 and 1830 by those between Portsmouth and Ryde and Lymington and Yarmouth, has rendered communication with the main land regular and easy; while the various railroads which now converge at Southampton and Portsmouth

enable the traveller to reach the Isle of Wight from any part of England in the course of a few hours. Steam packets also afford constant communication through Portsmouth and Southampton with the principal ports both eastward and southward.

The traveller from London has his choice of three lines of railroad, belonging respectively to the South-Western, and Brighton and South Coast Companies, whose rivalry for the island traffic, however disadvantageous to shareholders, has been productive of greatly increased facilities to the public, in a diminution of the fares, and an augmentation of the number of trains and steamers. For all particulars as to times of starting, &c. we must refer to Bradshaw and the other current time tables, or the advertising columns of the daily papers, as changes are constantly occurring.

All the lines issue return tickets at a considerable reduction, available for a given number of days: these, as well as the single journey tickets, include all charges from the station in London to Ryde,—omnibus and steam-boat fare, pier dues, and portorage.

The most rapid journey from London, is that by “Direct Portsmouth,” from the Waterloo Station, to PORTSMOUTH, and thence by steamer to Ryde: the whole occupying about three hours and a half. The same point may also be reached by the circuitous route *viâ* Basingstoke and Bishopstoke, or by the South Coast line *viâ* Brighton and Chichester.

Steamers run many times daily from the Victoria Pier at Portsmouth to Ryde (the passage occupying about twenty-five minutes) and to Cowes; and once on the afternoons of Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, to Yarmouth.

Another route is by SOUTHAMPTON (two hours and a half from London by express) and Cowes. Steamers descend the Southampton Water, and cross to Cowes repeatedly during the day, the passage occupying rather more than an hour. Twice a day (at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.) the voyage is extended to Ryde and Portsmouth.

Travellers from the south-west as well as those bound for

the western part of the island, will find the route by LY-MINGTON to Yarmouth convenient: it is the shortest, and usually the smoothest passage, and now that a branch line has been opened from Brockenhurst, on the Southampton and Dorchester line, to Lymington, no loss of time is incurred.

A short line in process of formation between the *Gosport* station and *Stokes Bay*, is expected greatly to facilitate the journey to the Isle of Wight; conveying the railway traveller and his luggage at once to the water's edge, and bringing him to a point considerably nearer to Ryde. The crossing is to be effected by means of a so-called "steam ferry," and a new pier and other improvements are in progress or in contemplation.

Coaches await the arrival of the steamers both at Cowes and Ryde, to convey the tourist to the places of principal resort in the island. Carriages are always ready to be hired by those who prefer a private conveyance.

The railway routes are too well known to render any description necessary, but a few words on the different lines taken by the steamers across the Solent may be acceptable.

1. Portsmouth to Ryde. 4 miles.

The railway brings the traveller to the suburb of *Landport*, whence he proceeds by omnibus or cab through the fortifications, of which he has a passing glance, to the High Street, and past the house where "Steenie Duke of Buckingham" was murdered by Felton in 1628 (on the left, just beyond the new barracks, opposite the old red brick Unitarian chapel) to the Victoria Pier, to which access is afforded through the ramparts. If not in too great a hurry to look at anything, the traveller as he leaves the omnibus may remark a *gilt bust of Charles I.* in a niche on the face of the tower towards the street, presented by the king to Lord Wimbleton, then Governor of Portsmouth, in commemoration of his safe return from his romantic expedition, when Prince of Wales, to woo the Spanish Infanta. To the left of the pier is the *Platform Battery*; to the right, a round tower known as

King Edward's Tower, to which was attached one end of the "mighty chain of iron," stretched across the mouth of the harbour by Edward IV. As the steamer leaves the pier, a view of the *harbour* and of the shipping lying there is commanded to the right, and on the left, of the ramparts stretching along the shore, to the suburb of *Southsea*, with its conspicuous terraces and neat spired church, skirting *Southsea Common*, a marshy flat, used for military reviews, inspections, &c. and terminated by *Southsea Castle*, originally one of Henry the Eighth's blockhouses, but modernised and much strengthened in 1814. On the right, after passing the *Blockhouse Fort* strongly fortified, and displaying a long line of ordnance à *fleur d'eau* defending the mouth of the harbour, the steamer passes *Haslar Hospital*, a large red-brick building, erected in 1762, for sick or wounded seamen or marines, of whom it will accommodate nearly 2000. Further to the south, at the extreme west point of the harbour, known as *Gilkicker Point*, from a tall tower-like pier of stone and brick behind *Anglesea*, called the *Gilkicker*, is *Fort Monkton*, commanding the roadstead of Spithead. Immediately adjacent is the watering-place of *Anglesea*, and beyond the gothic villas of *Alver Bank*; one of which, built by the late J. Wilson Croker, was the residence of His Royal Highness Prince Alfred when pursuing his nautical studies.

The course of the steamer lies through the famous roadstead of *Spithead* (which takes its name from the "*Spit*," a sandbank about three miles long, running south from *Gilkicker Point*), protected by the guns of *Fort Monkton* to the west, and *Southsea Castle* and *Fort Cumberland* to the east. Spithead is well known as the favourite rendezvous of the English navy, and there is seldom a time when some of our "floating castles" are not lying here at anchor. To the west of Spithead lies the roadstead known as *the Mother Bank*, the usual position of weather-bound merchantships. To the east, under the shores of the Wight, is the anchorage of *St. Helen's*. Off Bembridge Point, still further to the east, is seen the floating beacon called the *Nab Light*, which points out the entrance of the channel by night.

About half way across is the spot where, in 1782, the *Royal George*, a man-of-war of 108 guns, deemed at the time the first ship in the British navy, went down in a sudden squall with her commander *Admiral Kempenfelt*, and all on board. About 300 were saved, but the number of men, women, and children that perished was estimated at little less than 1000. The wreck of the *Royal George* lying full in the roadstead was a very dangerous obstacle to the navigation until its removal in 1839 and the six succeeding summers, by the Royal Sappers and Miners, under the direction of Colonel Pasley. The operations were carried on by cylinders filled with gunpowder, fired by means of a voltaic battery.

The appearance of the Isle of Wight as the traveller approaches it, is very attractive. The whole north-east side lies before him, with its low wooded hills and inlets, backed by the long range of chalk downs. To the right, the square towers of her Majesty's marine villa of *Osborne* will be seen rising from among the trees: *Sea View*, *St. Helen's*, and *Bembridge Point*, close the view to the left: in front, the pretty town of Ryde, with its spires and long lines of white houses rising tier above tier from a thick mass of foliage, smiles invitingly. The crowd of trim yachts and sailing boats which are always lying off Ryde in the summer add liveliness to the scene. The steamer comes to at the pier head; for full details of which, and all particulars connected with the town of Ryde, see Route 31.

Those who are bound to COWES, after touching at Ryde Pier to take in passengers, will continue along the coast for 7 miles to the north-west, with a prospect of a very pretty wooded district clothed with foliage down to the water's-edge; passing in succession, *Binstead*, *Quarr*, the creeks of *Fishbourne* (or Wootton River) and *King's Quay*; *Osborne*, of which the only good view is to be obtained from the water, and the ivy-clad towers of *Norris Castle*. For Cowes, see Route 1.

2. Southampton to Cowes. 13 miles.

This, though longer, is in some respects a preferable way of approach to that last described. The sail down the estuary of the Itchen or Southampton Water is very attractive, and the calmness of the passage is an additional inducement to those who have a good reason for wishing to avoid the rough water often met with in passing round the Spit between Portsmouth and Ryde. Leaving the taper-spires and grey old walls of "Hampton," and passing the entrance to the *Docks*, busy with commercial activity, the tourist soon passes on the left the commanding fronts, extending a quarter of a mile in length, of the *Military Hospital* commenced in 1857, and now approaching completion; the ruins of *Netley Abbey*, scarcely to be seen among surrounding groves, and *Netley Castle*, one of Henry the Eighth's blockhouses, close to the water's-edge. On the right is the busy little village of *Hythe*; and further down on the same side *Cadlands* (A. Drummond, Esq.) a beautifully wooded park, and the village and church of *Fawley*; opposite is the entrance to *Hamble Creek*, pleasantly wooded in parts, and *Titchfield House*, where Charles the First took refuge on his escape from Hampton Court, and from which he took his departure to Carisbrook Castle. At the very mouth of the Southampton Water, to the right, stands *Calshot Castle*, another of the blockhouses erected by Henry the Eighth, at the extremity of a tongue of land running out a little in advance of the line of coast. Having now come out into the Solent, the tourist obtains a distinct view of the north side of the Isle of Wight, with the low wooded hills of the tertiary formation sloping towards the shore, and the loftier elevations of the chalk downs, with their smooth rounded outlines behind. The estuary of the *Medina* opens in front, with the little towns of *West* and *East Cowes* rising among the trees on the steep slopes on either side of its mouth. The strange mausoleum-tower of West Cowes Church is a conspicuous object crowning the hill on the right, while on the left will be noticed the towers of *Osborne*, the ivy-mantled front of *Norris Castle*, and the turrets of *East Cowes Castle*, all modern erections. The steamer enters the

mouth of the Medina, and lays to at the convenient jetty behind the *Fountain Hotel*; where, at certain hours, a coach is waiting to convey passengers to Newport or Ventnor (Routes 6, 22.)

3. Lymington to Yarmouth. 4 miles..

This is the shortest passage to the island, and the most convenient for its western portion; with usually the additional advantage of smooth water. The steamer descends the Lymington river (at low-water a narrow sinuous stream among wide banks of mud), on the right of which are very extensive Salterns; on the left is seen the white front of *Pylewell House*, once the seat of a branch of the Isle of Wight Worsleys, now the residence of W. P. W. Freeman, Esq. The *obelisk* on the cliff in Walhampton Park (Rev. Sir G. Burrard,) is in memory of Sir Harry Burrard Neale. At the mouth of the creek to the right, stands *Hurst Castle*, another of Henry the Eighth's blockhouses, built in 1535, guarding the west entrance of the Solent, which is here less than a mile across. The castle, a two-storied round tower, which has been recently much strengthened, is situated at the extremity of a spit of shingle extending nearly two miles from the mainland. By its side stand magazines and storehouses, and two tall bright red light-houses. Hurst Castle will be viewed with much interest as the place where Charles the First was confined for twenty-seven days after his seizure by the army at Newport, December 1st, 1648. On the opposite coast of the Isle of Wight, two batteries, the *Victoria* and *Albert*, have been recently erected, and being built of bright red brick are conspicuous, and not very pleasing objects in the view. The little town of *Yarmouth*, with its castle and church, has a pretty effect from the water; the villas of *Norton* rise from the groves on the other side of the estuary of the Yar, to which the high *Freshwater* and *Afton* Downs form a noble background. To the east of Yarmouth is *Hempstead Hill*, beyond which the low-wooded shore is seen stretching out towards *Thorness* and *Gurnard* Bays, and *Cowes*. There are no public conveyances from Yarmouth to any part of the island. For Yarmouth, see Route 84.

CHAPTER. II.

HINTS TO VISITORS.

Different Classes of Visitors to be considered — Railway Excursionists :
 hasty and leisurely Visitors — One, two, or three days' Excursions—
 Itineraries — Conveyances: Coaches, Flies — Hotels and Lodgings—
 Choice of Residence — The Seasons — Attractive Localities for Scenery,
 Fossils, and Archæology — Maps and Time Tables — Postal Service — Money Orders — Electric Telegraph.

THREE classes of visitors have to be considered in any advice that may be given as to the best mode of seeing the beauties of the Isle of Wight:—the railway excursionist, whose object is to compress as much as possible into a day or two;—the ordinary tourist, who with more time at his command has none to waste, and is unable to linger on his way;—and the leisurely visitor, who comes to spend some weeks in the island, with the desire of seeing everything within his reach as thoroughly as possible.

Those of the first class, who, snatching a brief holiday from their ordinary occupations, run down to enjoy a mouthful of fresh air, and unbend the mind among new scenes, will find much to render a visit to the island convenient as well as delightful.

Single day Tour.

If they have but a single clear day to spare, leaving London late in the afternoon they can reach Ryde the same night, and the next morning, after a breezy walk on the pier, start by coach through Brading and Sandown to Shanklin, thence on foot by the Landslip, to Bonchurch and Ventnor; where, in the summer, they will find another coach ready to carry them on, after an hour or two spent in refreshment and in viewing the beauties of the place, through the lovely scenery of the Undercliff to Blackgang, and thence through the interior of the island to Newport, reaching Cowes the same evening in time for the last boat to the mainland. Those who take the route by Southampton and Cowes, may reverse the journey, and arrive at Ryde in time to reach London the same night.

Two days' Tour.

If he has two entire days at command, the visitor may leave London by the first train, and reach Ryde early enough to proceed the same day to Sandown, Shanklin, and Ventnor: where passing the night he may the next morning traverse the beautiful scenery of the Undercliff to Blackgang, and thence visiting Carisbrook Castle and Newport, arrive at Ryde in time to return the same evening to London.

Three days' Tour.

Those who can give one clear day to the island, will of course be able to see its beauties in a more leisurely manner, and enjoy them more thoroughly. Such should pass through Ryde and sleep the first night at Shanklin, walking the next morning through the Landslip to Bonchurch and Ventnor, and thence through the Undercliff to the Sandrock or Blackgang hotels, where the second night should be passed. The third day will suffice for Carisbrooke Castle, Newport, and the return to Ryde and London.

Excursion tickets are granted in the season extending from Friday to Monday, and are a great boon to hasty tourists, enabling them to spend a quiet Sunday in the beautiful scenery of the "Back of the Island," and gain health for body, soul, and spirit at once.

ITINERARIES.

The following itineraries give the distances from place to place. They have been drawn up with reference to the second class alluded to above, who, without being quite so much hurried as the railway excursionist, have only a limited time at their disposal, but are of course available for the other two. Full descriptions of each place will be found in the second division of the work, a brief note only of the chief objects of attraction being given here. The marks * and † denote a first-class hotel and a wayside inn respectively.

It will be observed that the tours given above do not include Freshwater or the western part of the island. To visit them a longer time is necessary. Three *entire* days

Miles.		Miles.	Miles.		Miles.
THIRD DAY.					
3	Needles Lighthouse . . .	3	1	Newport	21
1*	Alum Bay	4	5*	West Cowes	26
2†	Freshwater Church . . .	6	FOURTH DAY.		
4*	Yarmouth (<i>Church, Mo- nument to Sir R. Holmes</i>)	10	½*	East Cowes	½
4†	Shalfleet (<i>Norman door- way at church</i>). . . .	14	2	Whippingham	2½
1†	Newtown (<i>decayed town</i>)	15	3*	Newport	5½
5†	Carisbrook	20	2†	Arreton (<i>ascend Downs</i>)	7½
			2	Ashey Down (<i>view</i>) . . .	9½
			4	Ryde	13½

Three days' Tour from Cowes.

FIRST DAY.	
4 Parkhurst	4
1* Newport	5
1† Carisbrook	6
2½ Swainston	8½
1½† Calbourne	10
8* Alum Bay	18
3* Freshwater Gate	21
SECOND DAY.	
4 Brook	4
3† Brighstone	7
6½ Chale	13½
½* Blackgang	14

1½* Sandrock	15½
2½ St. Lawrence	18
2* Ventnor, or	20
1* Bonchurch	21
THIRD DAY.	
2½* Shanklin	2½
2½* Sandown	5
2† Brading (<i>ascend Down</i>) .	7
3 Ashey Down	10
4* Ryde	14
3½† Wootton Bridge	17½
3 Whippingham	20
2* East Cowes	22

Four days' Tour from Cowes.

FIRST DAY.		THIRD DAY.	
2½	Gurnet Bay	2½	1½* Sandrock
2½	Thorness	5	2½ St. Lawrence
3†	Newtown	8	2* Ventnor
1†	Shalfleet	9	1* Bonchurch
3*	Yarmouth	12	2½* Shanklin
4*	Alum Bay	16	
SECOND DAY.		FOURTH DAY.	
3*	Freshwater Gate	3	2½* Sandown
6†	Calbourne	9	2† Brading
4†	Carisbrook	13	2 St. Helen's
1*	Newport	14	2* Sea View
3	Gatcombe	17	2* Ryde (or over Brading and Ashey Downs)
5	Chale	22	3½† Wootton Bridge
½*	Blackgang	22½	5† East Cowes

Excursions from Ryde and back.

Miles.		Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
FIRST DAY.				
4	Brading	4	7	Arreton 26
1	Yaverland	5	4	Haven Street 30
1	Sandown	6	3	Ryde 33
2½	Shanklin	8½	THIRD DAY.	
2½	Bonchurch	11	7	Newport 7
1	Ventnor	12	1	Carisbrook 8
2	Wroxall	14	4	Shorwell 12
4	New Church	18	2	Brighstone 14
6	Ryde	24	7	Freshwater Gate 21
SECOND DAY.			3	Needles Point 24
3½	Wootton	3½	1	Alum Bay 25
3½	Downend	7	FOURTH DAY.	
½	Arreton	7½	6	Yarmouth 6
5	Godshill	12½	3	Shalfleet 9
3	Steephill	15½	9	West Cowes 18
1	St. Lawrence	16½	½	East Cowes 18½
½	Niton	19	2	Whippingham 20½
			6½	Ryde 27

Excursions from Newport and back.

FIRST DAY.		2	St. Lawrence 15½
3½	Wootton Bridge 3½	2½	Niton 18
3½	Ryde 7	1½	Blackgang 19½
2	Sea View 9	½	Chale 20
2	St. Helen's 11	4½	Gatcombe 24½
3	Brading 14	3	Newport 27½
1	Yaverland 15	THIRD DAY.	
1	Sandown 16	1	Carisbrook 1
3	Brading Down 19	4	Shorwell 5
2	Ashey Down 21	2	Brighstone 7
5	Newport 26	7	Freshwater Gate 14
SECOND DAY.		3	Needles Lighthouse . . 17
4	Arreton 4	1	Alum Bay 18
6	Shanklin 10	4	Yarmouth 22
2½	Bonchurch 12½	6	Calbourne 28
1	Ventnor 13½	5½	Newport 33½

Conveyances.

A century ago, public conveyances could hardly be said to exist in the Isle of Wight: there was but one vehicle to be hired in the whole island, an old single-horse chaise,

belonging to a man in Newport, who walked at his horse's head, leading it by a leather strap attached to the bridle. Even this humble equipage was deemed almost too grand for ordinary use by the tradesmen of the town and their wives, who with a dread of ostentation even surpassing that of Mrs. Gilpin, had the chaise driven a little way out of town when they wished to indulge themselves with a ride into the country, that they might not be seen committing such a piece of extravagance. It was in 1758 that the landlord of the Bugle ventured to set up the first four-wheeled chaise for hire; a rash act, which his friends feared would cause his ruin. A few years later, we learn from Wyndham, that the common method at the inns of Cowes, Newport, and Ryde, was to send the itinerant from his quarters in a one-horse chaise, with a little boy behind, whose employment was to open the gates on the road (at that time nearly innumerable; Hassell reckons 52 between Newport and Yarmouth; 50 between Freshwater and St. Catharine's, and 35 between Ryde and Ventnor; those in the Undercliff are fresh in the memories of many), and perform the part of guide. These one-horse chaises were succeeded by *Sociables*, a jolting two-wheeled car, with leather curtains to shield the traveller from the weather; which have in the last quarter of a century given place to the coaches and flies which now make communication in every part of the island so easy and agreeable.

Coaches.

The coaches which leave Cowes and Ryde at nearly all hours of the day during the summer for Newport, Ventnor, and Blackgang, afford a very agreeable and economical mode of transit from place to place. Now that railways have extended into nearly every part of the country, the treat of a ride on the top of a well-appointed four-horse coach, on a fine day, through a beautiful country, is one almost peculiar to the Isle of Wight. Nor even here can we hope that visitors will be allowed to enjoy it much longer; for several railways are in contemplation between the places of chief resort, and our lovely glades and quiet valleys will too soon

be deformed by the hard rectilinear deformity of embankments and cuttings, and their peaceful retirement effectually dispelled by the whizz of the train and the shrill scream of the railway whistle.

Flies.

Coaches do not run to the west of Newport or Blackgang (though there are omnibuses and vans to and from Yarmouth and Freshwater on the days of Newport market), and tourists who wish to visit the splendid coast scenery of the western extremity of the island can only do so by the help of a hired carriage. There is no lack of these at all the principal places in the island. The usual charges are as under : —

	per mile.	per hour.	per day.	
One horse carriage	1s.	2s. 6d.	15s. or 18s.	} according to distance.
Two horse do.	1s. 6d.	5s. 0d.	21s. or 21s. 6d.	

The driver's fee is :

	per mile.	per hour.	per day.
For a single horse	3d.	1s. first hour, 6d. each subsequent hour.	4s.
For a pair	4d.	1s. each hour.	5s.

The fares at Ryde include the driver's fee (a most desirable arrangement), and are therefore somewhat higher :

	per mile.	per hour.	per day.
One horse carriage	1s. 3d.	3s. 0d.	20s.
Two horse do.	1s. 8d.	5s. 0d.	32s.

Convenient as the flies are, the only way to explore the island *thoroughly* is on foot, and those who content themselves with following the beaten routes, and only visit those spots which can be reached in a carriage, will leave unseen much that is most worth notice ; the only tour for the young and vigorous to take here, or elsewhere, is a walking tour, which in fine weather is truly enjoyable. Even those whose strength does not suffice for this, should by no means tie themselves to their vehicle, but make frequent *detours* from the beaten track, as time and inclination may suggest ; sending the carriage, with the luggage and any members of the party who are unequal to the exertion of walking, to meet them at some appointed place.

Hotels.

The hotels in the Isle of Wight are generally good, and well appointed in every way, and present most agreeable sojourning places to the tourist. They are often accused of exorbitant charges, and a good many people are kept away from the island by the fear of being called upon to spend more than is convenient for their hotel bills. This accusation is not altogether groundless: it has been said, with some truth, that the Isle of Wight hotels "resemble gentlemen's villas in appearance, and they require a gentlemanly purse to stay at;" but they are very comfortable, and there is little cause of complaint except the bill, and even that, at the best houses, is not on a higher scale than at hotels of the same pretensions on the mainland: and if after all the visitor is disposed to grumble at some of the charges, he will do well to remember that the season is a short one, and that the cost of a large establishment has to be mainly defrayed from the proceeds of three or four months in the summer; and, if still discontented, may turn to Fielding's humorous account of the inn at which he stayed at Ryde, when detained at that port on his voyage to Lisbon, and feel thankful that his lot has fallen in better days, and that he is not compelled to "lodge in a tumble-down tenement, get nothing eatable and drinkable but what he himself provides, hear constant complaints of the trouble he is giving, and at last have his landlady take umbrage at the smallness of his bill, as "*a poor bill for gentlefolks to pay.*"

We subjoin a list of the principal hotels in the island, any one of which may form an agreeable centre for excursions: —

Newport: *Bugle.*

Ryde: *Royal Pier; Siviars; Yelfs; Royal Kent.*

Cowes: *Marine; Fountain.*

Ventnor: *Royal; Marine; Esplanade.*

Appuldurcombe: *Park Hotel.*

Bonchurch: *Ribband's Hotel.*

Shanklin: *Daish's Royal; Holliers.*

Sandown: *Hale's Sandown Hotel; Star and Garter.*

Freshwater: *Plumbleys; Albion.*

Alum Bay: *Needles Hotel.*

Blackgang: *Chine Hotel.*

Niton: *Sandrock; Victoria Bath*

Yarmouth; *George.*

Inns.

In almost every village there is an inn which affords humble but usually clean accommodation to a traveller who can put up with plain fare and homely apartments. The pedestrian who wishes to explore the island thoroughly, especially if bent on geological or botanical researches, will find it desirable to make trial of these rural hostelries; and though he must reckon on some inconveniences, he may also reckon on much civility, and unless fastidious will not have much cause of complaint.

Lodgings.

Those who dislike the publicity, or dread the expense of an hotel, can generally secure a tolerable degree of quiet and privacy, together with moderate charges, by taking lodgings, of which all the chief places of resort offer a very great variety, at equally various rates. As a rule, they are clean, and as comfortable as any house can be, the fate of which is never to be regarded as a home by anyone.

Choice of Residence.

Those who come to sojourn on the island for several weeks, or perhaps months, will need no special directions for filling up their time beyond that which the body of this little work will supply. Health, taste, or other motives will lead them to select some one of its many attractive localities as a place of temporary residence, which they will make the starting-point of their excursions, moving to some fresh centre when its interest is exhausted. The lover of gaiety, and the various *agrémens* of a fashionable watering-place, will make their summer head-quarters at *Ryde*, which, as well as its neighbour *Cowes*, offers unrivalled attractions to the increasing number who take delight in our truly national amusement of yachting. As a summer residence, *Sandown*

is fast rising in well-deserved repute; it is far quieter than Ryde, and its fine level sands afford great advantages to bathers, as well as to the tribes of merry children, who may amuse themselves here in perfect safety for hours. The abundant foliage and verdant lanes of *Shanklin*, render it a very popular resort during the warmer months, especially as the bathing is very good. *Bonchurch* and *Ventnor*, being among the most popular of those favoured spots to which the invalid hurries at the fall of the leaf, to seek shelter from the cold blasts of winter, are often mistakenly considered unsuitable for summer resort; the truth being that the very causes which protect it from the fierce winds of winter, render the climate of the Undercliff remarkably equable, and that on the hottest days of the year there is a delicious sea breeze which most agreeably modifies the temperature and prevents any feeling of excessive heat. The air of *Blackgang* and *Freshwater* is more bracing, and the number of summer visitors would be very largely increased if the accommodations were on a superior scale. *Yarmouth* is agreeably situated, particularly for marine excursions, and though the lodgings are not of a high order of excellence, those who visit the place once are said usually to wish to come to it again. The claims of *Ventnor* and its neighbourhood as favourable residences for consumptive patients during the winter have been already referred to: these advantages are shared by *Niton*, and the whole of the *Undercliff*, and while fresh rivals for popular favour are constantly springing into existence, experience continues to confirm the opinion given by Sir James Clark more than twenty years ago, that "it would be difficult to find in any northern country a district of equal extent and variety of surface—and it may be added, of equal beauty in point of scenery—so completely screened from the cutting north-east winds of the spring on the one hand, and from the boisterous southerly gales of the autumn and winter on the other." A new town has been planned, and houses are in course of erection at Woolverton, *St. Lawrence*, one of the most sheltered positions of the Undercliff, which

will much enlarge the opportunities of profiting by the natural advantages of this favoured tract.

The Seasons.

The invalids who resort to the Isle of Wight for warmth and shelter, naturally choose the winter months for the period of their sojourn, while the majority of those who visit it for pleasure and relaxation, crowd to its shores in the latter part of the summer. Neither see the island under its loveliest aspect, and while the circumstances of society render it impossible that any great change should take place in this respect, we should strongly advise all who can do so, to protract their residence a little later, or to fix the time of their visit a little earlier, so as to view the scenery at the periods of its greatest beauty, the early summer, and the commencement of autumn. Lovely as it is at every season, the exquisite charm of the Isle of Wight cannot be appreciated by those who have not wandered over it in May or June, when the woodlands are clothing themselves with their delicate livery—the warm tints of the oak, contrasting with various shades of green, of chestnut, maple, and elm, and every copse is vocal with the nightingale, and other birds of humbler song; when the orchards are all in a flush with their delicate blossoms, and every bank is carpeted with wild flowers of the most gorgeous hues, and the pastures are gay with golden cowslips, and rich purple orchises; and the gaudy cups of the marsh-marigold, and the pale tufts of the “lady smock all silver white,” with the more vivid green of the pasture, mark where the tiny rill is oozing through the soil, and the breezy downs are in a blaze with the golden furze scenting the breeze with its rich perfume, and the grey old thorns hoary with lichens are like masses of snow on the hill side; while the air is yet cool, and the great summer heats are still at a distance, and a little fire to gather round in the evening and talk over the events of the day is still pleasant, and when above all the excursion trains have not yet emptied their hordes of sight-seers on

its shores, defiling its loveliest woods with their greasy sandwich-papers and orange peel, and quiet and retirement are still attainable.

The autumn, too, has its own peculiar charms when in the season of "calm decay," the woods are blazing with every imaginable mixture of colour; the golden brilliancy of the ash and elm, the red of the maple, the crimson of the cornel, the various hues of green fading into brown and yellow; and a few wild flowers still linger to gladden the sight, the pale yellow spikes of the toad-flax on the sandy banks, and the bright pink stars of the campion gleaming in the hedge-rows, and the purple knap-weed and golden ragwort; and lanes are white with the downy plumes of the traveller's joy, and the bright coral seeds of the iris are shining in their dry gaping pods, and the air is thick with the luscious scent of the ivy, with its thousand corymbs of blossom, inviting multitudes of gorgeous butterflies to hover over it with their painted wings, and the glossy clusters of the blackberry tempt pedestrians who have not yet lost the innocent tastes of their boyhood, to linger by the way, and the snowy mushroom springs on the moist pasture or the dewy down, and the sun goes down night after night with glories inconceivable; when a sort of "St. Martin's" * or "Indian Summer," often lasting far into November, revives all the charms of the prime of the year, and warm suns and bright skies almost make one forget the near approach of winter, at the very time that thick fogs are brooding over the mainland, and keen frosts are robbing the groves and gardens of all their verdure and brilliancy.

Delightful as those who have visited the Isle of Wight in the middle of summer have found it, it is not then, when the heat is overpowering, and the roads are swept by clouds of dust, and the varied tints of spring have settled into one deep uniform hue, and the rich pastures and sloping downs are parched and brown, and the streamlets are nearly dry,

* "Expect St. Martin's summer, halcyon days."

SHAKSPERE, 1 *Henry VI.*, i. 2.

and every shady recess is invaded by undaunted sight-seers, and hotel-keepers are driven to their wit's end to provide accommodation for the thousands who flock to their doors, that it reveals its truest beauties; and wise are they who resolve to woo the Queen of the British Islets, when she wears her loveliest attire, and visit her either in the early months of promise, or when

“ Each flower and tree, its duty done,
Reposes in decay serene,
Like weary men when age is won.”

Special Localities.

The *lovers of the picturesque* will find the chief attractions of the Isle of Wight concentrated in the district between *Shanklin* and *Blackgang* (including the far-famed *Undercliff*), and the bold coast scenery of *Alum Bay* and *Freshwater*. The *Chines* in *Chale Bay*, between *Blackgang* and *Brighstone*, which have been too much overlooked, well merit a visit. The *woodland* around *Ryde*, and that on the other side of the island near *Newtown*, furnish an abundance of walks and drives with many scenes of quiet beauty. The *Downs*, with the glorious views of sea and land from their narrow elevated crest, and the hollow coombes which scoop their steep sides, some bare, some richly wooded, should not be neglected; while the lover of quaint old country villages will find few choicer specimens than *Shorwell*, *Brighstone*, *Calbourne*, *Mottiston* and *Godshell*.

The finest *views* are to be obtained from *Ashey Down*, *Lord Yarborough's monument* on *Bembridge Down*, *Cook's Castle* on *Shanklin Down*, *Worsley's obelisk* above *Appuldercombe*, the old lighthouse and *Hoy's pillar* on *St. Catherine's Down*, *St. George's Down*, *Stapler's Heath*, *Mountjoy* near *Newport*, *Gallibury*, *Mottiston*, and *Afton Downs*, and the *Needles Lighthouse*.

The *geologist* will find the successive strata of the *Cretaceous* system displayed with remarkable clearness and beauty along the coast from *Bembridge Foreland*, to *Bonchurch*, as well as between *Rocken End* and *Compton*

Bay. The *Tertiaries* are shown with equal distinctness along the northern shores, in Alum, Totlands, and Colwell Bays, and between Yarmouth and Hempstead Hill. The junction of the *Chalk and Green Sands* may be best seen in Compton, and Red Cliff Bays, that of the *Green sand and Wealden* in the same localities, and at Atherfield, that of the *Eocene* and the *Chalk*, at White Cliff and Alum Bays. The *vertical chalk* strata may be well studied in the Culver and Freshwater Cliffs, as well as in the numerous pits on the Downs.

The fossil collector should examine the cliffs between Shanklin and Luccombe, and those between Atherfield and Blackgang for the remains belonging to the *Lower Green sand*—the Undercliff affords those of the *Upper Green sand*; Sandown Bay, and the coast near Atherfield and Brook must be visited for *Wealden* remains. The chalk is not very prolific in traces of ancient organism. The *Eocene* fossils are found in the greatest abundance in Alum, Totlands, and Colwell Bays, and at Hempstead Hill; those of the *Freshwater Limestone*, in the quarries of Binstead, Calbourne, and Sconce.

The *botanist* and other naturalists will find all the guidance they can require in the latter portions of this work.

The *archæologist* should visit the *Long Stone* at Mottiston, the traces of *Celtic villages* on Roughborough and Gallibury Downs, and the *Barrows* in Chessel, Shalcombe, and other Downs, the recently discovered *Roman Villa* at Carisbooke, and *Carisbrooke Castle and Church*; the *Churches* of Shorwell, Godshill, Brighstone, Arreton, Shalfleet, Calbourne, Freshwater, Brading, and Yaverland; and the *Manor-houses* of Arreton, Yaverland, Chale, Sheat, and Swainstone.

The *Museums* at Newport and Ryde contain many objects illustrative of the geology, natural history, and archæology of the Isle of Wight.

Maps, Time-Tables, &c.

The visitor should be furnished with *Stanford's Tourists' Map* of the Isle of Wight, on the same scale as the Ordnance Survey, but more complete, not so bulky, and less expensive.

The geologist will doubtless avail himself of the remarkably cheap *Geological Map of the Island*, published from the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom, with sections and letter-press separately. Brion's *Relief Map*, coloured geologically, published by Stanford, should be possessed by all students of the natural features of the island, but it is most suitable for consultation at home.

"Time-tables" of the steam-boats, railroads, post-offices, coaches, and carriers, are brought out every month by various publishers at Ryde and Newport. The most complete we are acquainted with are those printed by Atwell at Newport, and Wayland at Ryde.

Postal Service.

Until the year 1615, Sir John Oglander informs us, there was no regular post between the Isle of Wight and London. Fifty years earlier, he tells us, all the letters were sent across the water "by a rabbit-man, who came once a week to buy rabbits," of which there were infinite numbers, on the sandy heaths of the island. Now letters are delivered daily in every village, and in the places of chief resort twice a day, while Newport, Ryde, and Cowes, have the advantage of a double despatch. The mail train which leaves London at 8.30 P.M. reaches Southampton at 11.30. At 2 A.M. a steamer leaves for Cowes, which it reaches at 3.50, and the mails are despatched thence to Yarmouth and Newport, arriving at the latter place at 4.45. Here the bags are sorted, and sent on in mail carts to Ryde and Ventnor, many being dropped by the way, and taken up by walking postmen, thus ensuring an early delivery between 7 and 9 A.M. The day mail arrives at Cowes at 3.15 P.M., and Newport at 4 P.M. The day mails from Ryde, as well as the letters for the second delivery, cross direct to and from Portsmouth.

Money orders can be obtained at Newport, Ryde, Cowes, Ventnor, and Yarmouth.

The *electric telegraph*, which for a long time halted at Cowes, has lately been extended to Newport, Ryde, and Ventnor.

PART II

PLACES OF PRINCIPAL RESORT, WALKS,
DRIVES, AND EXCURSIONS.

CHAPTER I.

COWES.

Route 1. Cowes, West and East.

Approach — History — West Cowes — Landing — Hotels — Churches, Chapels, and Public Buildings — Royal Yacht Club — Marine Parade — Egypt House — White's Shipbuilding Yard — Trade — Northwood Park — East Cowes — Custom House — Dr. Arnold — Church — East Cowes Park — East Cowes Castle — Norris Castle, &c. — Osborne — Whippingham Church.

Walks and Drives from West Cowes.

Route 2. West Cowes to Egypt and Debbourn.

3. " " to Gurnard Bay and Thorness by the shore.
4. " " to Gurnard Bay and Rew St., returning by Lower Cockelton.
5. Banks of the Medina, Whippingham, Werror, Northwood Church.
6. West Cowes to Newport.
7. " " to Newtown and Yarmouth.

Walks and Drives from East Cowes.

8. East Cowes to Brock's Copse, King's Key, and Wootton.
9. " " to Newport.

The Approach to Cowes.

Cowes is not unworthy of being the entrance to the Isle of Wight. Its appearance from the sea is extremely attractive: the town, which is divided into *West* and *East Cowes*, lies on opposite sides of the estuary of the Medina, which

is here about a mile across, and contracting rapidly as it runs inland, gives the place the appearance of lying round a good sized harbour. The hills mount rapidly from the water on both sides, so that the streets of West Cowes*, (which is the principal town, the other being a mere adjunct to it,) rise one above another, and the ridges being crowned with villas, and well clothed with trees, it assumes an air of consequence which is hardly maintained on landing. The port is one of considerable trade, and the numerous vessels which are usually lying in its safe and commodious anchorage sustain its commercial character. The Custom House for the whole island, at which all vessels bound to any of its ports must enter their cargoes, and when sailing, clear out, being here, merchant ships are continually coming and going, and create no little bustle and liveliness in the harbour, which in the summer is much increased by the handsome craft belonging to the Royal Yacht Squadron whose chief rendezvous is here. The shipbuilding yards present a scene of busy activity, and add much to the interest of the view.

There is excellent sea-bathing at all states of the tide; the neighbourhood also commands a variety of pretty walks, so that the visitor who likes a busy, lively place, with something always stirring in the streets, and a constantly varying scene in the roadstead, may do well to choose Cowes for a summer resort. To the lover of our national recreation of yachting, few places present such attractions: indeed it may be said that Cowes, which is essentially a mercantile town, owes its repute as a watering place entirely to the establishment of the Yacht Club in 1812, and the erection of the Club House in 1815.

History.

Cowes is not a town of any considerable antiquity. Charles the First's faithful friend, Sir J. Oglander, "knew

* "The Bembridge limestone, though concealed by the superincumbent marls and gravels, rises immediately along the quays with a rapid ascent, and its general curve determines the form of the slope on which Cowes is built."—*Forbes*, p. 55.

when there was not above three or four houses here." The advantages afforded by its commodious harbour, seem to have been entirely monopolised by its elder neighbour, Newport, until the latter part of the sixteenth century. Indeed the twin towns may be said to owe their existence as they do their name to the erection by Henry VIII., in 1540, of

" The two great Cows that in loud thunder roar,
This on the eastern, that on the western shore,
Where Newport enters stately Wight;"

which formed part of the series of forts built during the years of 1537-40, from the funds and sometimes from the materials of the dissolved abbeys, for the defence of the coast, which had hitherto lain unprotected, exposed to insult and attack from any enemy who chose to enter our harbours. Froude remarks (*Hist. of Eng.* iii. 254), that "the spoils of the church furnished the arms by which the Pope and the Pope's friends could be kept at bay." This was eminently so here: the materials of West Cowes Castle were brought across the Solent from *Beaulieu*; that at East Cowes was erected from the ruins of a religious house, known as *East Shamblord*, originally belonging to the Abbey of Lire, but afterwards given to *Beaulieu*. Leland visited the island soon after their erection; in his Itinerary he says, "Ther be two new castelles sette up and furnished at the mouth of Newporte; that is the only Haven in Wighte to be spoken of. That that is sette up on the Este syde of the Haven is caullyd the Est Cow, and that that is sette up at the West syde is caullid the West Cow, and is the bigger castelle of the 2. The trajectus betwixt these 2 castelles is a good myle."* Of East Cowes Castle not a vestige remains, though its site is still known as *Old Castle Point*; West Cowes Castle from its situation became a very convenient place of confinement for channel pirates; in 1623, Dutch marauders under the command of

* Leland's words show that it is a misnomer to speak of "East Cowes" or "West Cowes," the name being really a plural form including the two forts.

Reyer Jacobson were imprisoned here ; it was subsequently used as a state prison, and it was here that Davenant, Shakspeare's godson, was kept in durance, and it is said penned his poem of Gondibert. In the early part of William the Third's reign, Lord Cutts, the governor, "as brave and brainless as the sword he wore," imprisoned a clergyman here for two months, for voting against his interest. In common with Walmer and Deal, it has now assumed the character of a modern mansion, in which the last governor, the late Marquis of Anglesea, used to reside during the yachting season. Since his death the office of "Governor of Cowes Castle" has been suspended, and the castle is now occupied by the members of the Royal Yacht Squadron, who have obtained a lease of it from the crown and fitted it up as a Club House. It mounts a semicircular battery, but its aspect is far from formidable.

In 1575, between thirty and forty years after the erection of the castles, the Custom House was erected at East Cowes, which was then the larger place of the two. This gave an impulse to the prosperity of the town, but in consequence of the jealousy of Newport, its progress was slow until the time of Charles I., when it rose more decidedly in importance. Its conveniency as a landing place had been long recognised, and connects its annals with some royal visitors.

In 1538, Henry VIII., and Thomas Lord Cromwell, then Captain of Carisbrook Castle, landed here, on their way to visit Richard Worsley, Captain of the Isle, at Appuldurcombe.

August 2, 1609, James I., and his son Prince Charles, then a boy of nine, landed here, saw a muster of forces at Honey Hill, and proceeded to Carisbrook and Parkhurst Forest, where they "killed a bocke."

August 27, 1618, Prince Charles came to the island alone, visited Carisbrook, climbed Alvington Down for a view of the island, and saw a skirmish in the Forest.

Saturday, November 22, 1647, Charles I. landed here from Titchfield House, as a fugitive, and passing the night at a small ale-house, proceeded on the Sunday morning

through Newport to Carisbrook, which he was never to leave again a freeman.

Tuesday, August 13, 1650, the Princess Elizabeth and Prince Henry, the only children of Charles I. remaining in England, arrived here on their way to their father's prison.

In 1673, James II., then Duke of York, visited Cowes, and proceeded to inspect the fortress of Carisbrook.

As the jealousy of the town of Newport declined, the commercial prospects of Cowes advanced. In 1620, Sir John Oglander writes, "Prizes and men of war at the Cowes gave great rates for our commodities, and exchanged other good ones with us. I have seen 300 ships at an anchor." In the reign of George III. until the outbreak of the American war, the Carolina rice ships frequented this port, "from thirty to fifty arriving annually, and from twenty-two to thirty-five thousand barrels of rice being usually skreened, repacked, and shipped for Holland, Germany, &c."* Yards for shipbuilding were established towards the close of the last century, and contributed to the advance of Cowes, which has continued with little check to the present day. The population of West Cowes about 1790 was estimated at 1661, a few years later it was 2660; at the last census it had increased to 4786.

WEST COWES.

Landing.

There are convenient landing places at different points, but the best and most frequented is that at the rear of the *Fountain Hotel*, communicating immediately with the High Street. The favourable impression which Cowes makes from the water vanishes on landing: the streets are steep, dark, narrow, and winding, and though there is a good deal of trade, the shops are not attractive, and the lower part of the town has all the disagreeable characteristics of a little bustling sea-port, without a single public building of

* *Sturch, View of Isle of Wight*, p. 27.

sufficient architectural character to give dignity to the irregular mass of low houses of which it is composed. The

Hotels and Lodgings

have a good reputation : the chief are *Aris's*, late the *Marine Hotel*, on the Parade ; the *Fountain* (Bull), in the High Street, immediately adjacent to the quay, where the steamers touch, and from which the Newport coaches start ; the *Vine*, the *Dolphin*, and the *George*, a Commercial House. Houses and lodgings (which in 1794, Wyndham declares, were "dearer in proportion to their goodness than in any other part of the kingdom,") may be readily obtained at the usual rates, except at the time of the Regatta.

Mr. Moore, Mr. Smith, and Mr. May, are House Agents.

Churches, Chapels, and Public Buildings.

West Cowes is entirely situated in the parish of *Northwood*, itself a chapelry of Carisbrook ; and being thus a dependency of a dependency, its ecclesiastical buildings are modern and possess little interest. *West Cowes Chapel* (Rev. J. B. Atkinson, P.C.), was originally built in 1653, during the Protectorate, and consecrated by Bishop Morley of Winchester in 1662, who in 1675 added an endowment of 20*l.* per annum to the 5*l.* given in 1667 by Mr. Richard Stephens, on condition that the inhabitants made the whole salary up to 40*l.* The aisles were raised, and the church enlarged in the most tasteless manner in 1811, by the late George Ward, of Northwood Park, who at the same time erected the hideous western tower from designs by Nash of Regent Street fame. The lower story of this tower forms a mausoleum for the Ward family. The original building was a plain structure, with nave and side aisles and small chancel, of a more ecclesiastical appearance than could have been expected from the date of its erection. But the barbarous usage it met with at the last repair, robbed it of almost every characteristic feature, and it has small claims to notice.

The chapel of the *Holy Trinity* (Rev. M. Geneste, P.C.,

Bramble, *Architect*), in the lower part of the town, was founded in 1832, by the liberality of Mrs. Goodwin. The architect's ideas of gothic architecture were certainly not in advance of his day.

There are chapels of various sects: the *Independent Chapel* in Union Road (Rev. Thomas Mann); *Wesleyan*, Birmingham Road (Rev. Mr. Rodman); the *Free Wesleyan*, St. Mary's Street (local preachers); the *Bible Christians*, in Cross Street; and the *Primitive Methodist*, Market Hill. There is also a *Roman Catholic Chapel* in Carvel Lane, erected and endowed by Mrs. Heneage in 1796. A *cemetery* has been recently consecrated for the parish of Northwood, to the south of the town, on the left of the Newport Road.

The *National Schools*, which originated in 1812 in the benevolence of the late Duke and Princess Sophia of Gloucester, were erected in 1821, by public subscription, on ground given by G. Ward, Esq. The *British Schools* are on Shooter's Hill.

The *Market House* and *Town Hall* form a plain red-brick building, erected in 1816 in virtue of a local improvement act, with some recent additions in a better style. The market day is Saturday, but the market, a very small one, is open every day.

The *Custom House*, which was for many years at East Cowes, is now in Birmingham Terrace, immediately adjoining the Wesleyan Chapel.

The *Post-Office* is in the High Street: the mails arrive at 3.50 A.M. and 3.15 P.M., and leave at 10.30 A.M. and 8.45 P.M., the letter-box being closed 45 minutes before the despatch of the bags.

The *Hampshire Bank* has a branch here.

The Royal Yacht Club.

now occupies the castle. Its former house, immediately to the east, is marked by its projecting verandah. In its arrangements it resembles a London club, and possesses a library, reading-room, dining-room, cellar of choice wines, &c., for the use of its members. The Club, which was

founded in 1812, the house being erected in 1815, "consists of more than 150 noblemen and gentlemen (besides honorary members, chiefly naval officers), owners of yachts of from 40 to 450 tons or upwards. The total tonnage of vessels belonging to members amounts to more than 10,000 tons, employing upwards of 1400 seamen, besides ship-builders, &c. The association is deservedly encouraged by government as a nursery for the navy. Each member has a warrant from the Admiralty to carry the St. George's ensign, and the yachts are admitted into foreign ports free of port-dues. The yachting season lasts from May 1, to November 1; a *Regatta* takes place annually on August 21st and two following days, when a plate of 100 guineas given by Her Majesty is sailed for. The scene in the roadstead and harbour on this occasion is very animated and striking." On the same occasion the Pilot-boats, for which Cowes is famous, are inspected.

The members pay an entrance fee of 15*l.*, and a subscription of 8*l.* annually. Each member can introduce a friend to the privileges of the Club-house for fourteen days.

The *Marine Parade* is a fine promenade, extending westwards from the Castle to *Egypt House* (a gothic building with a tower, now occupied as a school), which commands a fine view of the Solent, Beaulieu River, Eaglehurst, Calshot Castle, &c.

Sir Charles Fellows, the Lycian traveller, is a resident at Cowes.

White's Ship-building Yard.

There are two docks in this establishment, and a patent slip besides the building slips; steam-saw mills, smiths' and engine shops; boat-building, mast and block shops, employing from 400 to 500 men.

The *Thetis Dock* was built by Mr. Thomas White, and opened October 1st, 1815, capable of docking the merchant ships of that day of 800 tons. As the maritime marine increased in size, and steam vessels came into operation, it was found necessary, in order to keep pace with the progress of the times, to construct a patent slip and larger

dock. The *Medina Dock*, built and opened in 1845, is 330 feet in length, and 62 feet in width, and has docked Her Majesty's line-of-battle ships "Ajax" and "Melville" of 74 guns, for repairs, as well as the steam ships of the Peninsular and Oriental, and Royal West India Mail Companies.

Up to this date upwards of 40,000 tons of merchant ships and steam vessels have been built, including several men-of-war for Her Majesty's navy. There are now building two corvettes of 800 tons each, one 600 ton despatch gun-vessel, and one gun-boat, being a portion of the Turkish fleet, agreeably to the Treaty of Paris. There are also four other steamers building for passenger vessels on the Bosphorus.

Her Majesty's ship "Carnatic," of 74 guns, has been ordered to Cowes to be docked.

There is a large *boat establishment* for building the well-known patent life-boats. This business is now carried on by John and Robert White, the sons of the late Thomas White.

At East Cowes there is a ship-building establishment called FALCON YARD, in which the most celebrated yachts were built by Mr. Joseph White. Here the far-famed "Water-Witch" was built. Mr. Joseph White was the constructor of the renowned "Phaeton," a 50-gun frigate; he also built several other vessels for Her Majesty's service. This business is now conducted by his son, Mr. Hamilton White.

There are other ship-building yards, belonging to Messrs. Ratsey and Hansen, the former standing high in estimation as a yacht builder.

Trade.

The harbour of Cowes is so conveniently situated, and so perfectly secure, that it has naturally become the rendezvous of a large number of vessels, and the centre of a considerable trade. The number of vessels belonging to the port, with their tonnage, was: In 1811, 141; 4230 tons: in 1813, 152; 4690 tons: in 1831, 185; 6725 tons: in 1846, 171; 8357 tons: the present number is 188.

The annexed calculation shows the state of the trade of the port at various dates:

<i>From Foreign Ports.</i>				<i>To Foreign Ports.</i>			
Inwards.				Outwards.			
	Vessels.	Tons.		Vessels.	Tons.		
1811 . .	24	3600	.	17	1900	.	
1813 . .	20	3200	.	25	2610	.	
1831 . .	20	3050	.	10	1350	.	
1858 . .	44	4245	.	65	4000	.	

Coastwise, including Ireland.

Inwards.				Outwards.			
	Vessels.	Tons.		Vessels.	Tons.		
1811 . .	1762	52,860	.	981	24,500	.	
1813 . .	1892	57,560	.	1109	29,725	.	
1831 . .	1275	42,495	.	453	13,570	.	
1858 . .	1328	48,670	.	507	10,724	.	

In addition to the above, 23 vessels in ballast were entered from, and 10 to foreign ports, giving 1490 and 2570 tons respectively.

The total receipt of customs in 1846 was 2348*l.*, in 1858, 4494*l.*

Northwood Park.

On the summit of the hill above West Cowes is *Northwood Park*, a large Italian building, the seat of G. H. Ward, Esq. (formerly Fellow of Balliol, and author of the once notorious "Ideal of a Christian Church,") standing in a wide well-wooded domain, surrounded by a lofty wall. The entrance lodges, all of the same Italian Doric type, attract the visitor's attention as he walks round the town. The grounds are strictly private.

EAST COWES.

A *floating bridge*, capable of conveying horses and carriages, connects East and West Cowes. In early times, *East Cowes* was of more importance than her now more prosperous sister, and was known by the name of *Shamblord*. In the reign of Edward III., A.D. 1340, when one of the many French invasions, the fear of which made our forefathers' lives bitter to them, and kept the island in a state

of grievous depression, was apprehended as imminent, all ingress or egress was forbidden, except at "La Riche (Ryde) Shamblord, and Yarmouth." When the Custom House was established in 1575, it was placed on this, as the more important side of the estuary, and here it remained till very recently. The father of Dr. Arnold of Rugby was collector of customs at this port, and resided at *Slatwoods* (Miss Shedden), where the regenerator of public school education in England was born, June 13, 1795. Mr. Arnold died at Slatwoods, in 1801, and was buried at Whippingham Church. Professor Stanley records in his biography, that "slips of a great willow-tree, still remaining here, were transplanted by Dr. Arnold successively to Laleham, Rugby, and Fox How." At present, the population of East Cowes is chiefly composed of mechanics, and others dependent on the shipping and ship-building establishments, while that of West Cowes forms the trading and mercantile community.

The little town is grouped prettily along the base of the wooded hill on which stand the mansions of *Osborne*, *Norris*, and *East Cowes Castle*, together with the villas of *Slatwoods* and *Spring Hill*, &c., whose towers and gables, rising above the trees, or peeping out from amidst the foliage, add greatly to the beauty of the scene.

When the Queen has occasion to land or embark at East Cowes, she does so at her private landing-place at the pier of the Trinity Board ; for ordinary folks, there is a convenient landing-place contiguous to a short but pleasant *promenade* along the estuary.

The *East Medina Hotel* is small, but pleasantly situated : the number of lodgings is very limited.

East Cowes is a district of the parish of Whippingham, containing 1440 inhabitants ; the *church* (St. James's, Rev. W. H. Hennah, *P.C.*), is a miserable piece of modern Gothic, designed by Nash, who presented the site. The first stone was laid by the Queen, then Princess Victoria, and residing with her mother at Norris Castle, Sept. 6, 1831.

To the south of the church lies *East Cowes Park*, an unfortunate building speculation, which was to have included a hundred picturesque villas, and a botanic garden. The

position is inviting, and some pretty houses have been built, and on the frontage towards the river a village is springing up, which promises hereafter to become a place of some importance.

Near the Park is *East Cowes Castle* (Mrs. Tudor), a piece of gingerbread Gothic, erected by Nash the architect for his own residence. The grounds, though not extensive, are beautiful, and the conservatories are fine, but, in common with Norris and Osborne, inaccessible to the public.

Norris Castle.

The most conspicuous object in the vicinity of East Cowes is *Norris Castle*, erected by Lord Henry Seymour, (*Wyatvill*, architect.) Its lofty ivy-clad towers, and long battlemented front, have a very fine effect from the water, and at a distance may be taken for a "real antique," though on a nearer approach its incongruities become sufficiently apparent. There is probably no spot on the shores of the Solent which commands so magnificent a sea view. "To the east, Portsmouth with its shipping is in full view,—and the wooded coast of the island from Barton to St. Helen's, appears in long and varied perspective. To the north, the spires of Southampton may be seen at the head of the river; beyond which, to the west, Calshot Castle, at the point of its long bank of shingle, is a prominent object, and still further, the woods of the New Forest clothe the view." George IV. was entertained here by Lord H. Seymour, in 1819, and it was the occasional residence of H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent, and her present Majesty when Princess Victoria. During the last summer it has been again occupied by the Duchess of Kent.

The stables are of princely dimensions, and the grounds very beautiful, but closed to the ordinary tourist.

Immediately to the east of Norris Castle is

Osborne House (T. CUBITT, Architect),

commanding much the same view, and occupying one of the finest situations on the shores of the island. The manor derived its old name of *Austerbourne* or *Oysterbourne*, from

the oyster-beds of the Medina, the denizens of which, though rather large and coarse, still enjoy local celebrity. It was long held by the Bowermans, and in the reign of Charles I. belonged to one Eustace Mann, who is said to have buried a large quantity of gold and silver coin during the civil wars, in a wood still known as "Money Coppice," which he was never able to recover, having neglected to take any accurate note of the position. His granddaughter married a Mr. Blachford, from whose representative, Lady Isabella Blachford, her Majesty bought the estate, which has been increased by subsequent purchases, and now stretches from the high road between East Cowes and Newport to the wooded inlet of King's Quay ; so that the Queen can drive for eight miles through her own domains. The former house, which was modern of no interest, has been pulled down ; the present building, a good specimen of the Domestic Italian, with two square towers, a flag-tower and a clock-tower, 107 feet and 90 feet high respectively. The apartments occupied by her Majesty are in the loftiest part of the building, in advance of the flag-tower, and command uninterrupted views on every side. On the north-west face of the building is an open corridor in two storeys, communicating with the same tower, at the back of which is the carriage entrance. The house is filled with statuary and pictures, principally the works of modern artists, and the apartments are said to be of admirable proportions : the terraced gardens and grounds which surround it are of great beauty ; but the whole is at all times quite inaccessible to visitors, whose best view of it is obtained from the water on the voyage between Cowes and Ryde. The park, which is well wooded, principally with oak, stretches down to the water's edge, where there is a pier for the use of her Majesty and her household. Here the Emperor Napoleon III. landed and embarked on his visit to her Majesty in 1857. The estate now contains about 5000 acres, a considerable portion of which is under cultivation. The soil is a cold hungry clay, but thorough draining and other well-planned measures have greatly improved it, and the out-

skirts are dotted over with excellent cottages, containing every possible convenience, affording a delightful proof of the care and consideration shown by the Queen and the Prince Consort for the welfare of the workpeople in their employ. Admirable schools have also been erected for the education of their children.

The domain of Osborne includes the Manor of *Barton* (or *Burton*), where an oratory was founded in 1282 by the then rectors of Shalfleet and Godshill, for six chaplains and a clerk, under an archpriest, to officiate both for the living and the dead, under the rules of St. Augustine. The members were all to sleep in one room; to be habited in one colour, black or blue; to be diligent in reading and praying; to have only one mess, with a pittance at a meal, except on the great festivals; and not to go beyond the oratory without the archpriest's leave. In 1439, it was surrendered to the See of Winchester, and its lands were granted by Bishop Waynflete to Winchester College, to which they belonged until the sale to her Majesty. Barton Court House, a picturesque gabled mansion, has been rebuilt by the Queen as a residence for her principal steward, but great care has been taken to preserve its principal features unaltered. In 1790 the chapel remained, used as a wool warehouse, and the principal rooms were handsomely panelled in oak.

Whippingham Church (St. Mildred, Rev. G. Prothero, V.)

(the mother church of East Cowes) stands near the second milestone, on the slope of a hill rising from the estuary of the Medina, of which at high water a strikingly beautiful view is commanded from the adjacent parsonage, which owes its present form to Dr. Ridley, Lord Eldon's brother-in-law, and Dr. Hook, Dean of Worcester (brother of the celebrated Theodore Hook, and father of the Dean of Chichester). Whippingham was one of the six churches given by Wm. Fitz Osborne to his Abbey of Lire soon after the Conquest. The church was rebuilt by Nash in the vilest taste, and with the meanest materials: it was cruciform, with a tower and spire at the

west end, and preserved in its walls some fragments of the Norman building. The eastern portion was rebuilt by Her Majesty in 1855, from the designs of Mr. A. J. Humbert, in the Transition-Norman style, with the admixture of some continental features, and the rebuilding of the whole church in the same style has been just begun. The chancel is divided from the side aisles by a range of small pointed arches, richly decorated with zigzag and other mouldings, standing on a plinth and forming a screen to the portions of the church occupied by her Majesty and her household, who can now enjoy that privacy in devotion which vulgar curiosity previously denied them. There are several monuments, but none of any interest besides that to Dr. Arnold's father. The tower and spire have a pretty effect in the surrounding scenery, especially from the water, where they group well with the bold bay windows of the parsonage.

WALKS FROM WEST COWES.

These are pleasant and varied, and though, from its position in an angle between the sea and the Medina, the pedestrian cannot expect any great scope for his powers, he will find much that is enjoyable in the rambles along the shore to Gurnet and Thorness Bays, and the stroll homewards by retired footpaths and leafy lanes, as well as those which the banks of the Medina offer in the vicinity of Northwood Church.

Route 2. West Cowes to Egypt and Debbourn.

The tourist who has but little time at his command should walk along the parade to *Egypt House*, and then ascending by *Debbourn Farm*, to the turnpike-gate of the same name, enjoy the extensive views of the Solent, the opposite coast, and the shores of the island, now advancing, now retiring, as far as Hempstead Cliff, and Sconce Fort, near Yarmouth; and reaching *Northwood Park*, return to Cowes by the upper road, a round of about two miles and a half.

Route 3. West Cowes to Gurnard Bay and Thorness, by the Shore.

From Egypt House a pleasant walk by meadows, and along the low cliff, passing through a part of *Wood Vale*, and near the residence of Admiral Farrington, leads to *Gurnard Bay*, where Charles II. landed in 1671, on the occasion of his visit to Sir Robert Holmes at Yarmouth. Seventy years since the quarries of Bembridge lime-stone were those of the greatest note in the island, and the fortifications at Portsmouth were constructed from them: three or four sloops, Hassell tells us, were often in the bay in fine weather, trading with it; but though it is still used, not only in the island, but at Portsmouth, the stone is not considered at all first-rate. Tradition makes Gurnard Bay the site of a seaport, long since destroyed by the inroads of the sea, to which the *tin* was brought across the Solent from *Leap* on the Beaulieu River. In 1583 it was "a common passage of the isle."

Gurnard Bay may be also reached by road, turning to the right between Debbourn Farm and the toll-gate: the distance is about 2 miles.

The walk may be agreeably continued from Gurnard Bay to *Thorness*, partly by the shingle, and partly on the low cliff, consisting of Bembridge limestone and the superincumbent marls, with their characteristic fossils. One may return by *Hillis Farm* and *Tinkers Lane*, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Route 4. West Cowes to Gurnard Bay and Rew Street, returning by Lower Cockelton.

Striking inland from Gurnard Bay to Morris' Farm, *Rew Street*, by entering the first gate to the left, *Lower Cockelton* is reached, and taking the first turn to the left on the high road, one may return to Cowes by a retired and pretty walk, by *Broadfields*, a walk of 5 miles.

Route 5. Banks of the Medina—Werror—Northwood Church.

The walks on the shores of the Medina depend much for their pleasantness on the state of the tide. A very agreeable circuit may be made by East Cowes and Whippingham,

crossing the Medina from the *Folly Inn* to *Werror Farm*, and through a pretty copse to *Northwood Church*, and back by *Medham* and *Somerton*, or by the high road, about 5 miles. The banks of the Medina are too muddy to invite a *very* close proximity except at high water.

Route 6. West Cowes to Newport.

Northwood Church — Parkhurst Forest — Juvenile Reformatory — Albany Barracks — House of Industry — St. Cross.

The tourist may proceed from Cowes to Newport, (5 miles,) either by the road or by boat up the Medina, which, when wind and tide are favourable, is a very pleasant sail. The scenery presents no very striking features; but the lover of river views will find much to enjoy in the softly swelling banks, clothed with hanging wood or rich with cultivation, the bold sweeping curves of the reaches, and the fine downs which rise in the background. A *packet boat* (Hollis's) runs up and down the estuary, at an hour regulated by the tide. A railway is in process of construction between Cowes and Newport.

The road is not one of the most interesting in the island, though the views it commands of the Medina, and the rising ground on the opposite bank, with the towers of Osborne, and the pretty spire of Whippingham, as well as of Newport and the Downs beyond, are very pleasing. Climbing the narrow street and emerging from the town, the tourist soon passes on to *Northwood Church*, (2½ m.) (St. John the Baptist, Rev. S. Seaman, C.) the mother church of Cowes, itself a daughter of Carisbrook. In 1305 it was styled "a chapel," and contributed to the support of the mother church; but in 1486 a distinct burial-ground was consecrated, and in 1545 it was separated, and relieved from any further payment. It is a plain building of Transition-Norman date, of nave and aisles, with chancel and small wooden belfry. The south door is Norman, with zigzag moulding. The parish contains 5122 acres; its population, including West Cowes, was 2771 in 1801; 5147 in 1841, and 6049 at the last census.

In 1512, no long time before the Dissolution, a religious

house, under the title of "*Brothers and Sisters of the Fraternity of St. John Baptist*," was established near Northwood. Its existence was brief, and its site is now hardly to be determined.

After passing Northwood Church the road skirts the district now known as "*Parkhurst Forest*," which is but a small fragment of the Royal Hunting Ground, (the earliest recorded in English history, appearing as "the King's Park," in Domesday), which originally extended from the Medina on the E. to Watchingwell and Swainstone on the W., and running to the Downs on the S., reached almost to the shores of the Solent on the N. The lords of the island enjoyed right of "free forest" here, and the sole privilege of "taking or driving stags or harts." When the lordship was purchased by the crown the forest accompanied it, and in the reign of Edward III. we find that one John Maltravers held certain lands in Dorsetshire by the service of attending the king for one day at his Castle of Carisbrook, during the season of buck-hunting. When Henry VII. visited "Dame Joanna Bowerman" at her manor of Brook, he rewarded his hostess with the grant of "a fat buck yearly out of his forest of Carisbrooke." James I., with his son Prince Charles, is recorded in the Carisbrook Register to have "hunted in the park and killed a buck," on a brief visit to the island of a single day, August 2nd, 1609; and here, ten years later, Prince Charles witnessed a sham-fight. It offers pleasant rambles to those who are not deterred by the alarming warnings against trespassers, posted at every entrance. (See Route 30.)

To the right of the road, three miles from Cowes, stands the

Parkhurst Juvenile Reformatory,

formed out of the Hospital of the Albany Barracks, which was in 1838 assigned by Government as a *General Penitentiary for Juvenile Offenders*, established by Lord John Russell, then Home Secretary. There is accommodation for 680 * in-

* The number of cells was once 720, and they were all filled.

mates besides the staff, which, including the governor, two chaplains, surgeon, superior and inferior officers, numbers sixty in all. The various reformatories established in the country have diminished the number of boys, and the average of the three years ending December 30th, 1858, was only 410. The system adopted contemplates the prevention of crime in the unconvicted, and the reformation and punishment of the convicted offender by moral and religious instruction, and industrial employment. The penal discipline consists of deprivation of liberty, a strongly-marked prison dress, and a regular diet. Silence is enforced, and the prisoners are subject to uninterrupted surveillance. The average cost per annum of each prisoner is 15l.* Most of the boys work on the land, of which 100 acres are annexed to the establishment, all cultivated by spade husbandry. The crops are always abundant, through care and high manuring. A rich estate has been made out of what was almost useless land, the soil being the stiffest possible clay.

Trades are also carried on in the establishment—and the boys are trained as blacksmiths, carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, and bakers. A certain number of the boys wash all the linen of the establishment. Everything required by the boys is made and mended by themselves, and cleaned by them.

When the boys first arrive they are put into the Probationary Ward, where they remain for four months, attending school every day for six hours. They are then drafted into the General or Junior Wards, where they work five days in the week and attend school the other day—half a day in the first part of the week, and half a day in the latter part. There is, in addition, an evening school for the better behaved, from 7 to 8 o'clock, and a Sunday school for all.

There are two services in the chapel, just as in a parish church. Prayers and an address every morning in the chapel at 7 o'clock.

* Parliamentary Report.

There are no accurate statistics as to results, but it is known that *very many* are doing well both at home and abroad.

Admission may be obtained by an order from the Secretary of State for the Home Department, or by an introduction to the governor or chaplain.

Albany Barracks.

The *Albany Barracks* were erected in 1798, and received their name out of compliment to the Duke of York and Albany, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army. During the French Revolutionary wars a considerable force was stationed here (2040 in 1798), and the barracks, which are very extensive, are still occupied by various depôts of regiments. The parade-ground is one of the finest in the kingdom; but it is needless to say that the plain red-brick buildings do not contribute to the beauty of the landscape, or their inmates to the morality of the neighbourhood.

Just beyond the barracks, on the left, stands the

House of Industry,

erected on a piece of Crown land, and established by act of Parliament in 1770, "for the maintenance and employment of the poor of the Isle of Wight by a general consolidation of the poor rates;" thus anticipating by sixty years the main principles and most beneficial reforms of the new poor law, and shaking off, by a vigorous independent effort, many of the gross defects of the old workhouse system. While in other parts of England the poor were fostered in debasing idleness, they were here encouraged to support themselves by their own industry — the aged and infirm were maintained in comfort, and the young well instructed, and fitted for some trade or useful occupation. It was no small credit to the Isle of Wight to have shown the way to the rest of England to a reform so essential, and in its main principles so simple and easy of application. (For further details, see Part III.)

Opposite to the House of Industry the road to Newtown and Yarmouth turns off to the right (Route 30).

Descending *Honey Hill*, where, on their visit to the island in 1609, King James and Prince Charles saw a muster of forces, we pass on the left *St. Cross*, the site of the "Priory of Holy Cross," founded before 1155 as a cell to the Cistercian Abbey of Tiron in the diocese of Chartres, and given as an alien priory to Winchester College. We cross the copious stream of the *Lugley* which rises above Carisbrooke, and passing the venerable front of the Grammar School on our right, enter Newport by St. James's Street. (See No. 10.)

Route 7. West Cowes to Yarmouth (12 miles).

This is a pleasant ride over the undulating ridges of tertiary strata, now rising, now falling in steep slopes, which have been left by the roadmakers very much in their original condition. The country is prettily wooded, and the road running for the most part parallel to the course of the Solent, commands exquisite views of the Channel and the opposite shore.

"The road which runs along the brow of the steep shore between West Cowes and Gurnard's Bay, is varied in a beautiful manner with hanging coppices, and the Solent Sea has in this part the appearance of a noble river flowing with a rapid stream, as the current of the tide is from this eminence most strikingly observable. The rich woods of the New Forest are seen from a nearer distance than from any point before described, and the few habitations seated near the shore, sparkle in the sun, and relieve the deep green of the woods which surround them."—(*Sir H. Englefield.*)

The road skirts Gurnard Bay, and passing *Thorness Farm* (4 miles), near the bay of the same name, *Porchfield*, *Lock's Green*, crosses the head of two of the numerous sluggish creeks of the Newtown river, and continues along delicious leafy lanes to *Newtown* (6½ miles), and *Shalfleet* (7 miles), and thence to Yarmouth, as in Route 30.

WALKS AND DRIVES FROM EAST COWES.

Not many years since the neighbourhood of East Cowes abounded in pretty walks, but the extensive domains of Norris and Osborne have gradually swallowed up so much of the picturesque wood-land, that few are now left; and the grounds reaching down to the water, even the seaside walks are now inaccessible to the public.

Almost the only really pretty walk left is that in the next route.

**Route 8. East Cowes to Brock's Copse and King's Quay (2 miles),
and thence to Wootton ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile).**

This is really a very delightful ramble, especially in the spring, when the copses are spangled with pale primroses and purple lungworts, and resound with the song of the nightingales. Continuing along the high road to the point where the road to the right leads to Whippingham Church, the tourist chooses that to the left, and passing the lodges of the Barton estate, takes "the bridle path to Wootton," which leads him through a steep shady lane to *Brock's Copse*, whence a footpath strikes through the copse to the left to the shore at *King's Quay* (No. 33), and across the fields to *Wootton Church* (No. 32). Though called a "bridle-path," this road is perfectly safe and easy for a carriage.

Wootton ($3\frac{1}{2}$ miles) may also be reached by the high road to *Ryde* ($6\frac{1}{2}$ miles), described (No. 33).

• **Route 9. East Cowes to Newport (4 miles),**

is reached by the high road along the right bank of the Medina, passing many of the royal cottages, and on the left the Prince Consort's farm-buildings, at the point of junction with the road between Ryde and Newport (Route 34).

A pleasant circuit may be made, by crossing the Medina, from the Folly Inn to Werror and Northwood Church.

CHAPTER II.

NEWPORT.

Route 10. Newport: Position, Population, Trade, Condition: social, political, moral — *History*: Foundation, Devastation by French, low Condition, Piracy, Pestilence, Return of Prosperity under Sir G. Carey, Parliamentary Representation, Incorporation, Civil Wars, Puritan Ordinances — Charles I., Captain Burley, Treaty, Restoration — Celebrated Natives: the Jameses, Chief Justice Fleming — *Description*: Quay, Streets, Markets — Hotels — Church: Foundation, Old Church, New Church, Pulpit, Monuments of Princess Elizabeth and Sir E. Horsey — Ecclesiastical status, Ancient Customs — Other places of Worship: St. John's, St. Paul's, Chapels — Cemeteries — Grammar School, National and Blue Schools — Town Hall, Market, Fairs, Bargain Saturdays — Corporation: Ancient Customs — Knighten Court, Quarter Sessions — Parliamentary Representation, Holmes Interest, Lord Falkland, Duke of Wellington — Institute and Museum — Banks — Post-Office — Conveyances — Mills — Climate.

Walks, Drives, and Excursions from Newport.

Route 11. Newport to Carisbrooke.

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| 12. | „ | Bowcombe Down, Gallebury Down, and British Settlement. |
| 13. | „ | by Love Lane, to Gatcombe and Ganson's Down. |
| 14. | „ | Watergate and Marvell. |
| 15. | „ | Shide and Pan Down. |
| 16. | „ | Arreton, by Pan and St. George's Down. |
| 17. | „ | Ryde, by Stapler's Heath, and Old Road. |
| 18. | „ | Ryde by New Road. |
| 19. | „ | East Cowes. |
| 20. | „ | West Cowes. |
| 21. | „ | Hurstake and Dodnor. |
| 22. | „ | Godshill and Ventnor. |
| 23. | „ | Whitwell. |
| 24. | „ | Niton. |
| 25. | „ | Chale. |
| 26. | „ | Gatcombe and Kingston. |
| 27. | „ | Shorwell. |
| 28. | „ | Freshwater Gate. |
| 29. | „ | Yarmouth, by Calbourne. |
| 30. | „ | „ by Newtown. |

Route 10. Newport.

Newport, though the capital of the island, is far from occupying the first place in the estimation of tourists, who finding little of interest in the town or its immediate vicinity, pass on, after a brief halt, to more attractive localities. It is the oldest existing town in the island, and though at the last census its population was 333 below that returned from Ryde, it is still the place that has the greatest trade and the largest number of *fixed* inhabitants. At that time the population of the parliamentary municipal borough, extending into West and East Cowes, was 8047; that of the town proper was 6814, while that of Ryde was 7147. The population at present is estimated at 8000.

The *position* of Newport, in the very centre of the island, at the head of an estuary navigable for trading vessels to the Town Quay, has ever given it a commercial superiority, which it is not likely to lose. The *tradesmen* of Newport have a more extended connection than those of the other towns, supplying largely the small country dealers in a wholesale manner; their shops are of older standing, and though the influx of visitors to Ryde and Ventnor has caused much improvement in this respect, their goods are, as a rule, of a better class than are to be obtained elsewhere.

The character of the *inhabitants* has of late years, in common with almost all country towns, greatly changed. A quarter of a century since, there was located at Newport and its immediate neighbourhood a considerable number of persons of independent means and high social rank. This class is almost extinct, and if any still remain, they can but sigh over the memory of former years, when the state of society was so different.

Various circumstances have contributed to this result; the rise of other towns of superior advantages as regards health and scenery; changes in local feeling, and the rapidly-widening separation between those engaged in retail trade and the class above them. But no cause has been so influential as the excited political feelings brought into play by the Reform Bill. Having been for generations

the closest of nomination boroughs, governed entirely by one family and their agents, the strong political reaction which arose, and the personal animosities which sprang into existence between two parties nearly equally divided, when at length the representation was thrown open, can well be imagined. The party which had hitherto monopolised all power was not inclined to resign it without a struggle, while those who had previously been denied any voice in the administration of public business, feeling that their time was now come, were scarcely satisfied with a share, but were disposed to claim the whole, to the utter exclusion of their opponents; and a spirit of discord was unhappily perpetuated, so that whenever a contest took place, either as regarded ecclesiastical, political, or municipal affairs, nothing could exceed the violence of party spirit exhibited in this small borough. This state of things, it will be well conceived, has naturally driven away some, and kept away others who might, under happier circumstances, have been residents in the town, and maintained its former high character.

The vicinity of the *Albany Barracks* at Parkhurst has a considerable influence upon the social condition of Newport. When the barracks are full, the number of soldiers seen walking about the streets and neighbourhood give it almost the appearance of a garrison town: but much as their gay uniforms tend to enliven the dulness of a country town, the moral effects of such a congregation of the young and thoughtless, on the people of Newport, are very undesirable.

History.

Newport, like so many of our ancient towns, stands just at the point where the river ceases to be navigable, and, as its name evidences, was originally founded as the *port* of the ancient capital of Carisbrook. The site of the town was a part of the "demesne lands" of the "Lords of the Island," by one of whom, *Richard de Redvers, Earl of Devon*, the plan of the town was formed, early in the reign of Henry I., apportionments being let off for building at one shilling "a place." Fifty years after the foundation of the

town, *Richard de Redvers* (the third of his name), great-grandson of the founder, gave its first charter of privileges to his "novus burgus de Meda," and erected the church as a chapel of ease to the mother church of Carisbrook, a relation of dependence which has only ceased with the last year. *Isabella de Fortibus, Countess of Albemarle*, the last subject who held the independent lordship of the island, in the reign of Edward I. granted the freehold of the town to the burgesses (of whom there had been about 240 in 1262), taking a yearly payment of about 26*l.* in lieu of the "shilling per place," paid before. During her residence in regal state at her castle of Carisbrook, the town acquired a degree of feudal pomp and dignity which entirely passed away with the sale of the lordship to the crown in 1293, though it still continued to increase in substantial prosperity. In August 1377 the town was almost totally destroyed by the French, in their invasion of the island. Contemporary documents speak of the entire "burning, wasting, and destroying of the town of Newport, so that no tenant was there resident for two years." In the poll-tax taken through the island the following year, no mention of Newport occurs: indeed, so completely was the town trodden prostrate, that it was long before it raised its head again, and though its charters were renewed by Edward IV. (at which time, out of 240 buildings, 71 were the property of the church), and fresh grants made by Henry VII. and Edward VI., its condition at the commencement of the reign of Elizabeth, in common with the island generally, was most deplorable. Poverty and partial desolation were the most prominent features of the town: in consequence of the narrow and exclusive spirit of the by-laws, trade languished, the streets were unpaved, the houses filthy, and the population demoralised. Piracy arose and became rife, and even Sir Edward Horsey, the governor, was more than suspected of receiving large bribes to wink at the nefarious traffic. In 1582, the necessary penalty which must be paid by any community that lives in neglect of ordinary sanitary laws, began to be exacted; the plague visited the town, and raged with so much violence for the next two years, that a new burial-ground had to be formed,

the churchyard of the mother church of Carisbrook proving insufficient; and a rate was levied through the whole island, for the relief of the suffering inhabitants of the capital, which was disbursed in kind, in meat, fish, and grain.

With the stern, but just and vigorous rule of Sir George Carey (nephew of Queen Ann Boleyn), a brighter day began to dawn upon Newport, which soon entered afresh upon the career of commercial prosperity, which has continued with but little interruption to the present day. It is to this governor that in 1585 Newport owed its parliamentary representation, and as a mark of gratitude the burgesses of Newport authorised him to nominate one of their members during the remainder of his life, a privilege his successors were careful not only to claim but to extend, so that the election of both the representatives became virtually vested in the governor, until the appointment of Thomas, Lord Holmes, in 1763, who availed himself of the influence of his position to secure the patronage of the borough to his family, in which it continued till the passing of the Reform Bill. The incorporation of the town dates from the first year of James I.; a mark of increasing prosperity appears in 1622, in the paving of the main streets; but its advance was not rapid, and after a severe visitation of smallpox in 1628 (brought down from London by "young Thomas Urry, of Gatcomb"), we find the town in a very impoverished state, and complaining bitterly of "Scotch soldiers being quartered upon it, to its great discomfort and loss." Ten years later a scarcity prevailed, and riots arose in consequence of the exportation of corn from the island, while to relieve the pressing wants of a large class of the poor inhabitants, a numerous band of authorised beggars was enrolled.

On the outbreak of the civil wars Newport, which, justly or unjustly, seems always to have borne the character of a turbulent, disaffected little place, espoused the side of the Parliament against Charles I., whose cause was generally popular with the island gentry and their tenants; and after

the decisive measures taken by the mayor, Moses Reid, for securing the possession of Carisbrook Castle, then held by Col. Brett and the Countess of Portland (see Carisbrook), Puritan rule was established in the town.

The ordinances of the town-book soon show evidence of the change; in Sir George Carey's time, the shops were suffered to remain open on Sunday till after "the second bell," and even then customers might be served "over the hatch-door." But now, "all goods exposed to sale on the Lord's day" were forfeited; "carrying of any burden" was forbidden under a fine of 5s.; "travelling," under a fine of 10s. A fine of 5s. was levied on any who dared to be present at any of the sports at that time so common on the Sunday; and even "the playing of children" was repressed by a fine of 1s. on their parents; while to secure the execution of these ordinances, and to repress any tumult which might be caused by their enforcement, each inhabitant was bound to have "a sufficient club," to assist the constable in the performance of his duty. Early hours were observed, the "great bell" being rung at 3 A.M. in the summer, and 4 A.M. in the winter.

On Sunday, Nov. 23, 1647, Charles I. rode through Newport on his way from Cowes to Carisbrook Castle: when "a gentlewoman presented him with a damask rose which grew in her garden at that cold season of the year, and prayed for him, which his majesty heartily thanked her for." (*Herbert Memoirs.*)

About a month later the peace of the town was disturbed by the vain attempt of Capt. Burley, a gentleman of good family at Yarmouth, to raise the people by the sound of a drum, and the cry, "for God, King Charles, and the People," to march to the Castle and rescue their sovereign. Few besides women and boys obeyed his summons; and the feeble band, which had but one musket among them, was speedily dispersed by the soldiers from Carisbrook. The leader was seized, and subsequently tried and condemned on a charge of high treason (!) and executed at Winchester, Feb. 2, 1647-8.

In September and October 1648, the negotiations be-

tween Charles and the parliamentary commissioners filled the quiet town with bustle and excitement, and made it the temporary scene of a mimic court. The king selected the Grammar School, then recently erected, for his own residence: the Bull Inn (now the Bugle), was occupied by the commissioners (Hollis, Vane, Glyn, &c.), and the old Town Hall was the theatre of the fruitless deliberations protracted for nearly three months. The George Tavern (on the south side of the High Street, where the shops of Messrs. Wavell (chemist), Cowdery (grocer), and Gubbins (bookseller) now are), was the royalists' place of assemblage; where, on the night of the 11th of October, an affray took place, resulting in the death of two royalists, and three of the musketeers who had been sent to apprehend the combatants. The conferences began, after the observance of a solemn fast by both parties, on Monday, Oct. 2, 1648, in the old Town Hall, then lately built. The king, with his hair and beard prematurely silvered with sorrow hanging dishevelled and neglected, sat under a canopy of state, or a raised chair, with his lords in waiting and chaplains, (Juxon, Sheldon, Hammond, &c.) standing behind his chair: the commissioners were seated on either side of a long table. When the king wished to consult his friends, he retired to a private apartment. On the 27th of October, the vain discussions terminated and the treaty was signed, the king consenting to the "abandonment of his friends, provided they were allowed the benefit of the ancient laws, — the suspension of the function of the bishops, and the investment of their lands in the crown until religion should be settled by act of Parliament."

Charles occupied his apartments at the new Grammar School for sixty-one days, dating his correspondence "from our court at Newport." Here, on the 7th of October, he touched a young woman for "the evil," who, Oudart informs us, had the sight of a blind eye immediately restored; and here too, on the 30th of November, he was seized in his bedchamber, a little before daybreak, by emissaries of the army, and abruptly removed to Hurst Castle, travelling by coach across the island to Worsley's Tower, near the

present Victoria or Sconce Fort, a little to the west of Yarmouth, where he took boat for his new prison.

On the restoration of Charles II., Moses Reid was one of the very first to recognise the new order of things, and take the oath of allegiance to the sovereign. The corporation maces, which had been altered to the arms of the Commonwealth, were sent to London, even before the king landed, to have the royal insignia replaced, as a visible token of loyalty. Perhaps, as a reward for their timely expressions of allegiance, the town obtained a new charter with additional privileges from Charles II., the first year after he regained the throne.

The subsequent history of Newport contains no events of special interest.

Celebrated Natives.

Newport has not been fertile in great men: the only names recorded in the rolls of fame are those of the two *Jameses*, uncle and nephew, antiquarian and controversial divines, and Chief-Justice Fleming.

The elder, *Thomas James* (born 1571, educated at Winchester, Fellow of New College in 1593), having signalled himself as a collector of MSS., was appointed by Sir Thomas Bodley the first keeper of the library he was then building at Oxford, of which, in 1605, he published the first catalogue. He resigned his office at the Bodleian in 1620, that he might have more time for his studies, the chief object of which was the defence of the Protestant faith against its Roman Catholic antagonists. He died at the early age of fifty-one.

His nephew, *Richard James*, followed his uncle's steps as a divine, scholar, and bibliophile. Having travelled in Russia, he published an account of that country, assisted the celebrated Selden in his work illustrative of the Arundel Marbles, and was of considerable service to Sir Robert and Sir Thomas Cotton in the arrangement of the MS. library. He died at an early age, in 1638, leaving his MSS. to the Bodleian library. He had the reputation of being "a good poet, critic, antiquary and divine, well skilled in

the Saxon and Gothic tongues; well versed in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin; and knowing well the French, Spanish, and Italian languages."

Sir Thomas Fleming, Lord Chief Justice of England, of infamous notoriety in our constitutional history, from his judgment in the "great case of impositions," ("fully as important," in Lord Campbell's opinion (*Lives of L. C. J.*) "as Hampden's case of ship money, but not so celebrated from having been long acquiesced in to the destruction of public liberty,") that the king might impose whatever duties he chose on imported goods, was the son of a shopkeeper at Newport. He raised himself at first by his own industry, but afterwards by a base sycophancy which made him a ready tool of the government of the day in their illegal exactions. He started with Bacon, and was preferred before him, and found his way into the House of Commons, where he only once opened his mouth "in defence of monopolies." King James I. declared that he was "a judge to his heart's content." He amassed a large fortune, and purchased the monastic estates of Quarr and Carisbrook in his native isle, some portions of which are still enjoyed by his descendants.

DESCRIPTION OF NEWPORT.

The town of Newport is pleasantly situated on a gentle slope on the western side of the valley of the Medina. The strata on which it stands are a continuation of the fresh-water eocene beds of Headon Hill, and lie nearly horizontally. To the south and west rise the smooth rounded summits of Mountjoy, Pan, and St. George's Down, portions of the central chalk range, with highly inclined strata: between these and the town the clay and sand strata of Alum Bay are found occupying a nearly vertical position. *The Medina* flows through the town from north to south, working several large corn-mills, joined below the Quay by the copious stream of *the Lugley*, formed by the union of the brooks rising in Buccombe and Alvington Vales. At the bottom of the town the river widens into a tidal estuary, at the head of which a convenient quay

and landing slip have been formed, and warehouses erected along the water's edge. This part of the town is not the most picturesque, but there is an air of commercial activity which is a pleasing evidence of its continued prosperity, as the central depôt and general mart for the island. The general aspect of the town is neat, clean, and cheerful: the streets (of which there are five running east and west, and three north and south) are wide, well paved and lighted, and the chief avenues, High Street (running from Coppin's Bridge, at the eastern, or Ryde entrance, past the Town Hall, and continued under the designation of Castle Hold to the western, or Carisbrook entrance), and St. James' Street (running north and south, from the Cowes entrance to Node Hill), which cross one another at St. James' Square in the centre of the town, contain good shops. There is a thorough respectability about the place, which impresses the visitor very favourably, though there is nothing of peculiar interest, beyond the *Church* and the *Grammar School*, to detain him. It has nothing modern in its look, and is happily for the most part free from flaunting stucco façades, and broad plate-glass shop fronts; but it is rather old-fashioned than old, and though there are a few houses dating a couple of centuries back (one *Jacobean mansion* at the corner of Sea Street and Holyrood Street, deserves notice), there are no antiquities to attract the attention of the archæologist. A stroll through the principal streets, with a visit to the church and Grammar School, will satisfy most visitors, although, if they are inclined for a longer sojourn, they will find the Bugle a comfortable hotel, and its central position, commanding every part of the island within a couple of hours' drive, one of great convenience; while the large Saturday market affords an opportunity not to be lost by those who wish to make acquaintance with its inhabitants. Those who are merely passing through Newport will do well to manage to arrive there at a tolerably early hour on Saturday, when "the market folks and market vehicles are almost as miscellaneous as the commodities they have brought together, and much better worth seeing."

Hotels.

The principal hotel is the *Bugle* * (formerly known as the Bull, of historical interest, as having been occupied by the Parliamentary Commissioners at the time of the "Treaty,") High-Street; *The Star*, St. James-Street; *Green Dragon*, Pyle-Street; *Wheatsheaf*, *Newport Arms*, Corn Market; *Lamb*, High-Street.

Church.

The chief object of interest in Newport is the *Church of St. Thomas à Becket* (Rev. G. H. Connor, V., Daukes, Arch.), a truly splendid building, erected at a cost of nearly 12,000*l.*; (first stone laid by the Prince Consort, August 23rd, 1854; opened for public worship, December 21st, 1856; consecrated January 20th, 1857;) reflecting the utmost credit on its architect, as well as on the spirit and energy of its promoters. No one should fail to visit it.

Till 1858, Newport was merely a chapelry to the mother-church of Carisbrook, but is now an independent parish. The original church was erected by Richard de Redvers about 1173, with the advice and consent of Bishop Toclive of Winchester; and dedicated, like the churches erected at the same time, as at Portsmouth and elsewhere, to the recently canonised archbishop. It was a large low building, in the same heavy Transition style as the mother-church of Carisbrook, and its sister of Northwood. Marks of fire on the stonework proved that the church had suffered when the town was burnt by the French in 1377, and the repairs and alterations of seven centuries had obliterated whatever architectural beauty it ever possessed; the interior was blocked up and darkened by huge pews and galleries, and every

* The word *Bugle* does not signify the musical instrument usually known by that name, but a young ox, *Buculus*; in which sense it was used in the translation of the Bible in 1551, and which Tyrwhit heard was still current in his day in the North. The old sign of the inn was an ox.

kind of ungainly obstruction, so that for all but a favoured few it was impossible to see, and almost equally difficult to hear, or to take a reverent and intelligent part in the service. The only objects of interest it contained, — the richly carved oak pulpit, and Sir E. Horsey's monument, — have found a place in the new building. The font and pewing were of the early part of the reign of Charles I.

The *new Church* is a highly enriched specimen of the Early Decorated style, equally deserving of admiration for the excellence of its proportions, and for the gracefulness and elaborate character of its sculptured decorations. It consists of a clerestoried nave, with gabled aisles and chancel, N. and S. chapels and vestry, N. and S. porches, and a lofty well proportioned tower at the W. end, containing a peal of eight bells. The western entrance challenges attention by the richness of its stone carvings: the canopy of the door rises into a niche fifteen feet high, enshrining a statue of the patron saint. The window tracery is well designed and varied; the east window, of five bays, is peculiarly light and elegant. The interior is lofty and dignified, well befitting the principal church of the metropolis of the island. Every portion of it marks equal care and skill; nothing has been neglected, or executed in a mean or slovenly way. The roof is open, of timber, with moulded ribs and sculptured corbels: the seating excellent. The *Pulpit*, removed from the old church, is well worth notice, as a fine specimen of the gorgeous but corrupt taste of the middle of the seventeenth century. The sounding-board is ornamented, among other emblems, with reclining figures of Justice and Mercy, and the text runs round it in gilt letters, "CRY ALOUD AND SPARE NOT: LIFT UP THY VOICE LIKE A TRUMPET." The pulpit itself bears in singular combination the Four Cardinal Virtues, and the Three Graces, in low relief, below which are personifications of the seven liberal sciences, "Grammar, Dialectics, Rhetoric, Music, Arithmetic, Geometry, Astrology." The pulpit was the work of "Thomas Caper, carver, who lies buried in Salisbury;" the donor, whose crest is to be seen

on the back, was named Marsh. The *Reading-desk* is formed out of the chancel screen of the old church. The exquisite monument by Baron Marochetti to the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Charles I. (who died at Carisbrook Castle, at the age of fifteen, September 8th, 1650), was erected by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, as "a token of respect for her virtues, and sympathy for her misfortunes." The Princess is said to have been found dead in her apartment, her hands clasped in prayer, and her face resting on the pages of an open Bible, which had been her royal father's parting gift: the monument, which stands at the east end of the chapel, perpetuates the tradition. The effigy, taken from contemporary portraits, lies recumbent on a mattress, the cheek reclining on the sacred pages, which bear the text, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." From the Gothic arch, beneath which the figure reposes, depends an iron grating, with its bars broken asunder. It is a work of art, of which Newport may well be proud. The body of the Princess, having been embalmed, was brought from Carisbrook, and honourably interred, September 20th, 1650, the funeral being attended by the mayor and aldermen. Her resting-place, which was in the middle of the chancel, was entirely forgotten till 1793, when the workmen who were digging a grave for the Honourable Septimus Henry West, sixth son of Lord Delaware, who had died at Newport, came accidentally upon the vault containing her coffin, which was very strongly fashioned of lead, ridged in the middle; and that the spot might not be again overlooked, a tablet, formed economically by reversing the monumental slab of "Mr. George Shergold, minister of Newport," was placed over its entrance. The coffin rests undisturbed on the same spot within the walls of the new church. The two side windows of the chapel have been filled with stained glass by Her Majesty, to temper the light falling on the monument: painted glass is beginning to find its way into others of the windows, one of which to the south of the chancel, depicting an angel visiting a battle-

field strewn with slain, commemorates the officers and men formerly stationed at Parkhurst Barracks who fell in the Crimean war. That above the Horsey monument, containing effigies of our Blessed Lord, SS. James and John, was executed at Bordeaux, and presented by W. B. Rutherford, Esq.

The only other monument of interest is that of *Sir Edward Horsey*, Captain of the Island in the reign of Elizabeth (1565-1582) at the east end of the south chapel. An effigy of the knight, clad in armour, reposes beneath a rich marble canopy, painted and gilded. A laudatory epitaph ascribes to him many virtues, which were but poorly exemplified in his dissolute life. Horsey was a soldier of fortune, who ingratiated himself with the Earl of Leicester, became the confidant of his clandestine marriage, and through his interest received the Captaincy of the Isle of Wight. His government was worse than feeble, and his career unprincipled: his private character was debauched, living openly at Haseley Manor (between Arreton and Newchurch) with Mrs. Dowsabell Mills, widow of the only son of the purchaser of Quarr Abbey; and his principal companions were men of equally loose lives with himself. The Solent was at this time infested with privateers (*i.e. pirates*), whose head-quarters were St. Helen's or Cowes; as many as "eight or nine score" gaining their livelihood by plundering friend or foe. Horsey was accused of complicity with these nefarious proceedings, and he received a stern remonstrance from Lord Burleigh, to which he replied by an indignant denial of the charge, yet at the same time acknowledging that he had received "presents of spices, sweetmeats, and Canary-wine" from them. He died of the plague, at his mistress' house, at Haseley.

Newport being a portion of the parish of Carisbrook, the founders of the church had covenanted with the prior and monks, that two of their number should perform service in it daily, for which they were to receive two marks annually; the burgesses attending the mother-church on all great festivals. Sir John Oglander says, that "It was an ancient custom for the vicar of Carisbrook to come to his

chapel of Newport on Easter Day, and administer the Sacrament, and afterwards dine with the bailiff. The vicar then invited the burgesses to sup with him at an inn, and provided gammons of bacon, and gave five pence towards the wine; each burgess paid his shilling, and every new burgess since the last meeting gave his pottle of wine. After supper the bailiff and burgesses saw the vicar on his way to Carisbrook as far as the chapel field, and then took their leave. This was called the 'love feast' between the town and their vicars." After the dissolution of religious houses Newport church was served by the vicar of Carisbrook; but we find that in 1653 there was no regular incumbent for want of a sufficient stipend, and a vote of 1s. 6d. in the pound was levied on the inhabitants to meet the want. In 1794 an unhappy difference, as to the right of nomination to the cure, arose between the vicar of Carisbrook and the inhabitants, by whom the minister had been previously appointed. This terminated in favour of the vicar, who afterwards furnished the stipend. The final separation from the mother-church, and constitution into an independent benefice, took place November 20, 1858, with the consent of Queen's College, Oxford, with whom the right of presentation is now vested.

There are two other churches within the precincts of the town,—*St. John's*, Node Hill (Rev. R. Hollings, P. C.), on the road to Shide and Rookley, a broad, aisleless, towerless building, erected about twenty years since in the pseudo-gothic then prevalent,—and *St. Paul's*, Barton village (Rev. W. L. Sharp, P. C.), on the road leading by Stapler's Heath to Ryde, a later erection in the Norman style, with a tower and spire and semicircular apse.

Dissenting chapels abound. The following is a list of them, with their ministers:—

Baptist, Castle Hold, Rev. Mr. Jennings.

Wesleyan, Pyle Street, Rev. Mr. Taylor.

Congregational, St. James's Street, Rev. Mr. Elrick.

„ Node Hill, Rev. Mr. Procter.

Unitarian, High Street, Rev. Mr. Macferran.

Roman Catholic, Pyle Street, Rev. Mr. Fryer.

Primitive and Reformed Methodists, Pyle Street, Rev. Mr. Taylor.

Bible Christians, Quay Street, Rev. Mr. Bailey.

Friends' Meeting, High Street.

Catholic and Apostolic Church (or Irvingites), Holyrood Street, Rev. Mr. Smith.

Plymouth Brethren, Union Street.

Cemeteries.

The town of Newport had no distinct burial-ground until the visitation of the plague in 1582-4 (p. 49) when a piece of ground adjacent to Corsham-street, a short distance to the south of the church, was consecrated as a cemetery. This was from time to time enlarged, but interments have now ceased in it, a new cemetery on the Ryde and East Cowes road having been lately opened. The old church-yard contains no monument of interest besides one near the rails towards the S.E. corner, to Lieut. Shore and his family, who were lost in the wreck of the *Clarendon* at Blackgang, October 11th, 1836. The entrance gateway is a good specimen of Elizabethan architecture.

Grammar School.

The *Grammar School* in St. James' Street will be an object of interest to many, from its connection with the closing scene in the life of Charles I. It was founded in 1612 by Lord Chief-Justice Fleming, during the government of Lord Southampton, by whose permission about 34 acres of land on Hony Hill, which had been granted to the burgesses of Newport by Agnes Attelode and John Erlesman in the reign of Henry V., were enclosed and devoted to educational purposes. The antique gabled front remains unaltered, and the schoolroom is little changed since it served as the presence chamber of the "grey dis-crowned" monarch, in which divine service was regularly and decorously performed by one of his selected chaplains, or one of the prelates who had come to assist in the deliberations: the Master's house (then occupied by Mr. W. Hopkins, knighted by the king for his services) supplied

accommodation to Charles and his attendants; and it was there that, shortly after daybreak on Nov. 30, 1648, he was seized by Major Ralph and his companions, and conveyed to Hurst Castle. The school is in a thriving state, under the able superintendence of its present head-master, the Rev. Allan Wallace, M.A. The average number of scholars is 50; of these 20 are free, the rest paying 10 guineas per annum.

The National Schools

are situated on the Carisbrook road, and were erected in 1816; they are supported by voluntary contributions, and are in highly efficient order: convenience, not architectural effect, was consulted by their designers, and it cannot be said that they are any ornament to the town.

The Blue School,

in Lugley Street, first established in 1761, for the education of poor girls, is a most excellent Church of England institution, supported by a small endowment, aided by voluntary contributions.

Town Hall (NASH, Architect, 1816).

The old Town Hall, a plain gabled building, only interesting as the place of the conferences between Charles I. and the commissioners, was pulled down to make room for the present insipid structure. The front boasts of an Ionic portico, and the flank to the High Street, a colonnade of the same order. The interior is suitable to its purpose, and when the partition is removed, forms a handsome room, but, save a picture of Sir Leonard W. Holmes, the former patron of the borough, it offers nothing worthy of a visitor's attention. The lower portion of the building forms the Market House, in which a market for the sale of butter, eggs, poultry, &c., is held every Saturday. A cattle market is held in St. James's Square every alternate Wednesday. There is an *annual fair* held for three days at Whitsuntide; it was once of considerable importance, but like nearly all

its congeners, it is now more of a nuisance than a benefit to the town. Three "Bargain Saturdays" were held at Michaelmas for hiring servants for the ensuing year, of a similar character to the "statutes" or "mops" which are the cause of such wide-spread demoralisation in other parts of England. Register offices are gradually superseding the "Bargain Saturdays" with the happiest results.

The erection of the Town Hall cost the corporation about 10,000*l.*, to defray which they sold the whole of their landed property.

Corporation.

Before the operation of the "Municipal Act" the corporation of Newport was little more than "a machine for confining the parliamentary representation of the town to the nominees of the same family," that of Holmes; "the parliamentary seats being considered family property." [*Report of Commissioners.*] It consisted of a mayor, 11 aldermen, and 12 chief burgesses, all nominated by the patron of the borough; a recorder, appointed by the crown on the petition of the mayor, but in fact also nominated by the patron (the late Earl of Yarborough was the last who filled the office); and other officers, including "gashers of hides," and "sealers of leather," and other obsolete functionaries.

The corporation elections took place in former days in the church: the electors were divided into two houses, those above the chair occupying the chancel, the others the body of the church.

The Mayor's Feast "was kept, in old times, on the first Sunday after May Day, when," writes Sir J. Oglander, "it was the custom for the bailiff and his brethren to meet at *Woodovis* in the forest, where the keepers of the forest presented them with green boughs." On the same day "it was the custom, from time immemorial, for the governor of the Isle of Wight to give five guineas to buy a bull, to be baited, and given to the poor. The mayor and corporation, before they went to the church to choose a new mayor, attended at the bull-ring in their regalia, with their mace-bearers and constables; and

after proclamation, a dog, called the mayor's dog, ornamented with ribbons, was in their presence set at the bull."

The old system of patronage, which had, in fact, been rendered worthless by the alterations produced by the Reform Bill, has been entirely abolished, and the corporation consists of a mayor, 6 aldermen, and 18 councillors elected by the inhabitants.

The old "*Knighten*" or "*Governor's Court*," a curious relic of feudal times, answering to the "*Sheriff's Court*" in other places, which used to be held from three weeks to three weeks before the governor's steward, though maintaining a nominal existence, has had its functions merged in those of the "*County Court*." The "*Quarter Sessions*" for the borough were discontinued by the operation of the Municipal Act, but the magistrates meet every Saturday in Petty Sessions for the trial of smaller offenders.

Parliamentary Representation.

Newport sent two members to Parliament from 1585, and the right of election, though nominally in the aldermen and burgesses, was really exercised by the governor until the time of Thomas Lord Holmes. On his death in 1764, a dispute arose in the corporation, whether to transfer their allegiance to a new patron (either Sir W. Oglander or Sir Thomas Worsley), or to support the Holmes interest, which had passed with the estates to his sister's son, the Rev. Leonard Troughear (afterwards Leonard Lord Holmes), the son of Dr. Troughear, vicar of Carisbrook. The corporation of 33 members was almost equally divided; 16 were in favour of the change of masters, 16 supported the old regime: one burgess refused to declare his intention, and as on his vote the patronage of the borough hung, a bribe of 2000*l.* was offered him by the agents of one party, on which in disgust he resolved to support the other; but they, in the meantime, ignorant of what had occurred, tendering him a still larger sum, he determined to vote for neither, and to avoid further temptation, resigned his seat as a burgess.

Eventually the Holmes party carried the day, and until the Reform Bill, that family (now represented by the Honourable Mrs. a'Court Holmes, of Westover, daughter of the late Sir Leonard Worsley Holmes) returned the two members for this borough, as well as those for Yarmouth. The borough was represented in 1640–1658 by Lucius Lord Falkland, perhaps the purest patriot of all whose names became illustrious during the civil dissensions of the seventeenth century; and from May 8th, 1807, to April 7th, 1809, by “Henry Lord Palmerston, and General Sir Arthur Wellesley” (the Duke of Wellington). The period of the great duke’s representation of the town was illustrated by the expedition to Copenhagen, and the victories of Rolica and Vimeiro: the intervals of peace being occupied with the duties of his Irish secretaryship.

The limits of the borough embrace parts of the parishes of Carisbrook, Northwood, and Whippingham, as well as portions of West and East Cowes, containing a population of 8047, and property of the annual value of 29,000*l*.

Isle of Wight Institution.

In the centre of the town, called St. James Square, stands the *Isle of Wight Literary Institution*, (Nash, Arch. 1810), a conspicuous stone building erected by public subscription, at a cost of 3000*l*. It possesses a good library and reading rooms, supplied with daily papers and periodicals, a billiard room, and other conveniences. The annual subscription is two guineas, and the same sum is paid on entrance. The front, of Swannage stone, is plain, but possesses a certain dignity which renders it an ornament to the town.

Museum.

There is a *Museum* in Lugley Street, containing a collection of coins, urns, and other local antiquities of Celtic, Roman, and Anglo-Saxon date, as well as a well-arranged series of fossils, illustrative of the various strata of the island.

Banks.

There are branches of the "National Provincial" in the Cattle Market, and of the "Hampshire Banking Company" in the Corn Market. There is also a Savings Bank in Lugley Street.

Post Office.

The *Post-Office* is situated at the upper end of Quay Street, immediately behind the Town Hall and Market House. Letters arrive *via* Southampton and Cowes, at 4.45 A.M., and 4 P.M., and are delivered soon after 7 in the morning, and again between 5 and 6 in the evening. There is a double despatch every day but Sunday, the box closing at 9.30 A.M. and 7.15 P.M.

Conveyances.

The public conveyances are so frequently varying both in number and in hours of starting, that it will be wise to seek for particulars of them in the local *Time Tables* published every month, of which the most complete is *Atwells*, which contains every information about the coaches, vans, steam boats and carrier carts of the island. It will be enough to say here that *coaches* leave Newport for Cowes, Ryde, and Ventnor, several times during the day, the booking offices being at the Bugle, Star, Rose and Crown, and Wheatsheaf. *Omnibuses* run to Freshwater on the market days, Wednesday and Saturday, at 4 P.M., from the Rose and Crown; to Yarmouth, every day but Sunday and Friday, at 4 P.M., from Gosden's Temperance Hotel. During the summer months, the Ventnor coach goes round by Chale and Blackgang and the Undercliff.

A *passage boat* runs down the Medina every day to Cowes, its time of starting being regulated by the tide.

Mills.

The mills in the vicinity of Newport are principally employed in the manufacture of flour, which has for many centuries formed the chief article of its trade. At one

time a considerable quantity of starch was made here, but the manufacture has now entirely ceased.

Between the old and new roads to Ryde is *Nunn's Lace Factory*, where at one time a very considerable trade was carried on in "Isle of Wight Lace," furnishing employment to 600 or 700 hands. The operations of the factory are now confined to blonde, and the number of hands employed is only about 250 or 300.

There is a *pipe factory*, supplied from a vein of pipe-clay at Down End, above Arreton; and *cement mills*, (Messrs. Francis) on the west bank of the river, where the Fresh-water Limestone, and the Septaria of Alum Bay, are burnt and formed into cement.

Climature.

The *climate* of Newport is very mild, but as it lies low, (only 20 feet above the sea in its lowest part) it is somewhat damp, and rather relaxing in summer.

Mr. J. C. Bloxam, in his elaborate report on the "Meteorology of Newport," gives the mean temperature of the year, on an average of sixteen years, as $49^{\circ}38$, that of the four quarters being *winter* $39^{\circ}99$; *spring* $46^{\circ}92$; *summer* $59^{\circ}63$; *autumn* $50^{\circ}78$; the *coldest* month being January, $39^{\circ}54$, the *hottest* July, $61^{\circ}05$. The *highest temperature* in the shade registered by Mr. Bloxam was $90^{\circ}4$, August 3, 1856, the *lowest* $12^{\circ}8$, February 12, 1847: the *highest mean for 10 days* was 70° , the *lowest* $26^{\circ}2$. The number of *rainy days* in the year on the average of 10 years was 197. *January* and *October* give the highest monthly average, 19; *June* and *September* the lowest, 14 and 13. The average *fall of rain* was 32.945 inches in the year, *October* giving the most, 5.018, and April the least, 1.961. The most prevalent *wind* is the *S. W.*, which blows for 242 days out of the 365; *N. E.* on 72 days, principally between February and May; and *N. W.* on 40 days: the *S. E.* is never known to prevail for a whole day.

Its sanitary condition is very good. The town is well supplied with water from a spring at Carisbrook; the sewerage is effective, and the authorities are very careful

to maintain cleanliness, and it is believed that the records of epidemic disorders would give Newport a high position as compared with other towns.

Route 11. Newport to Carisbrook.

Carisbrook — The Mall, Mountjoy — Castle : General Aspect — History : Celts, Romans, Saxons, Normans, Fitz-Osborne, De Redvers, Siege by Forces of King Stephen, Isabella de Fortibus, Siege by the French, Sir G. Carey, Attack of Parliamentary Forces, Detention of Charles I., his Treatment, Occupations, and Attempts at Escape, Princess Elizabeth and Prince Henry removed hither, Death of former, Lord Culpepper, Lord Cutts, Mr. Orde — Description of Buildings : Entrance Gates, the Great Court, Governor's Residence, Chapel of St. Nicholas, the Well, the Keep, Mountjoy Tower and Outworks — Church : Monuments, Remains of Priory — Roman Villa.

Newport to Carisbrook. (1 mile. 3 routes.)

The vicinity of Newport abounds in pleasant walks: noble downs command splendid and varied prospects, and quiet leafy lanes tempt the tourist on every side.

The first walk taken will doubtless be to Carisbrook Castle, about 1 mile to the north. The way lies by the continuation of the High Street known as "*Castle Hold*," (once a sort of *Alsatia*, the privileged resort of the bad characters of the neighbourhood, in which a conventicle was forcibly dispersed in 1683), past the *National Schools*, and along the pleasant *Mall*, a well kept high pathway shaded with trees, to the foot of the village street, and across the valley to the base of the wooded hill — an outlier of the great chalk range, 239 feet above the sea, — crowned with the grey ivy-clad ruins.

This is the ordinary mode of visiting the ruins, and certainly pleasant enough, but the better course for pedestrians is to leave Newport by *Node Hill*, and striking out to the right near the toll-bar, cross *Mountjoy*, a somewhat higher ridge of the chalk rising between Newport and Carisbrook, commanding a delightful view of the estuary of the Medina and the interior of the island, hardly so well known as it deserves to be. Descending past the *new cemetery* on

the steep chalk slope, the visitor may cross the road, and availing himself of a stile and footpath a little higher up, reach the foot of the counterscarp, and making the semi-circuit of the outworks approach the great gate from the south. This is a most delightful walk.

Carisbrook may also be reached most pleasantly across the fields by *Westminster Mill*, or by striking into the same footpath at the west end of the Mall.

CARISBROOK CASTLE

is surpassed by very many of our ancient castles, in size and extent, as well as in architectural character; though if we combine its historic interest, the extreme beauty of its site and neighbourhood, and the general picturesqueness of its appearance, very few of our ruined fortresses will better repay a visit, or will dwell longer in the memory. Whichever way the castle is approached, it is a most striking object: more so perhaps when seen from a little distance, than when one is in it, when "the want of height prevents it from bearing that look of indomitable command, which in some cases makes an ancient fortress resemble the last of the Anakim, bidding defiance to the feebler race that crawl around its feet." (*Sterling.*)

The *enceinte* of the castle walls contains about an acre and a half. The stone-faced outworks which encircle it, enclosing a space of 20 acres, were the work of *Genebella*, an Italian engineer, employed by Queen Elizabeth at the time of the Armada, and by whom Tilbury Fort was constructed.

The *walk round the outworks*, which are strengthened with five bastions, is a little less than a mile; and is much to be recommended. The turf is enamelled with flowers, the castle walls tapestried with ivy rise on one hand, while on the other, the eye commands an ever-varying prospect of the surrounding country set in a framework of downs.

Before entering the castle, we will detain the visitor a few minutes, by briefly recording the more noteworthy points in its history, which are but few and unimportant till we reach the epoch when the imprisonment of Charles I. con-

ferred on Carisbrook an historic interest which no time can efface.

History of the Castle.

There is little doubt that Carisbrook has always been the chief stronghold of the inhabitants of the island, and that the mound of the keep is of Celtic origin. Its importance as a military position would not be overlooked by the Romans, who without doubt, made it the centre of their military occupation of "Vectis." Remains of Roman building have been long known to exist at Clatterford near the base of the castle mound, and the recent discovery of the villa makes the residence of the Romans in this locality a certainty. We cannot question that this was the site of *Wiht-garas-burgh*, "the fortress of the warrior of Wight," ineffectually defended by the Celtic inhabitants against Cerdic, A.D. 530, and afterwards against his nephews Stuf and Wihtgar, by whom the wretched people who had taken refuge within its shelter were put to the sword.

The name Carisbrook is in all probability a corruption of that of the original fortress, with the loss of its first syllable, — *Garas-burgh*, *Garasbrook*, *Carisbrook*. Be that as it may, the history of the castle may be said to commence with the establishment of the Saxon invaders in the Isle of Wight, one of whom, the somewhat mythical Wihtgar, is said to have been buried in the precincts of a heathen temple at the base of the hill, a site afterwards consecrated by the erection of a Christian church. The Saxon stronghold can have been little more than a wooden stockade, defending the summit of the keep-mound. The first stone building must have been that erected by the Conqueror's cousin, William Fitz-Osborne. His castle was probably confined to the keep-hill, the lower buildings surrounded by a mound and fosse owing their origin to Richard de Redvers, the first lord of the island of that family, temp. Henry I. The encircling walls, amidst many alterations and repairs, retain a large proportion of Norman masonry. His son Baldwin, was a zealous partisan of the Empress Maud, and endeavoured to hold his castle of Carisbrook for her, "inventing certain warlike engines,

at the cost of much treasure," but on the failure of the well (evidently that in the keep, now half filled up with rubbish), he was forced to surrender to Stephen, and part with his castle and lordship. On the establishment of peace, he was reinstated in his honours, and erected the Great Hall of the castle, and to avoid the recurrence of the former misfortune, sank the well, which has since become so celebrated. The chapel was the work of his son William de Vernon, 1184-1217, who made the castle his principal residence. The adjacent portions appear to be the work of the lion-hearted Isabella de Fortibus, 1262-1293.

The island passing on her death into the hands of the king, Carisbrook lost much of its importance, and sank into the rank of an ordinary royal castle, the seat of the governor for the time being. In 1377 the castle was ineffectually besieged by the French invaders, who were forced to retire with the loss of their commander (see History), and shortly after left the island. The local tradition which would connect *Dead Man's Lane* with the slaughter of the French, who had there inconsiderately fallen into an ambuscade, and *Noddehill* at Newport, with the interment of the "*Noddies*," who had lost their lives so foolishly, is quite devoid of historical foundation.

Additions to the castle were made by Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, 1385-1397, whose arms appear on the south-west buttress of the Governor's lodgings, and by Anthony Woodville, Lord Scales, the brother of Elizabeth Woodville, Edward the Fourth's queen, by whom the noble entrance gateway was erected. Additions were made to the fortifications in the time of Queen Elizabeth on the threatened invasion of the Spanish Armada: the outworks were constructed, and the angles of the castle repaired and strengthened. One of the angles of the keep bears (or bore), the date 1562; on a shield at the north-east corner of the outworks, is the date 1598; on the south-east corner of the Base Court is 1601, on the north-west, 1602, thus marking the progress of the repairs, for which 500 tons of timber were brought from the New Forest. The first great alteration of the habitable part of the castle was made at

this time by Sir George Carey, by whom the hall and adjoining rooms were divided by floors, and the buildings to the left of the great gate remodelled, assuming the appearance and arrangements which have become matters of historical interest, in connection with the imprisonment of Charles I.

On the outbreak of the Parliamentary war, the Earl of Portland, a devoted adherent of Charles I., who had given offence to the Puritan party, as well by his religious creed, as by his "waste of wine, and drinking healths, and other acts of jollity," was removed from his office as governor by the authority of Parliament; the castle still remaining in the custody of Col. Brett, a nominee of the king, and the Countess of Portland, who had taken refuge there with her children. To secure the possession of the chief fortress of the island for the dominant party, was a matter of considerable importance, and Moses Reid, then mayor of Newport, having obtained authority from the Parliament, at once summoned the crews of the ships in the river to his aid, and marched with the train-bands of the town against the castle, which, after a display of heroic spirit on the part of the Countess, who threatened to fire the first gun herself against the assailants, thereby obtaining favourable terms for herself and her little garrison, surrendered to the superior force, and thenceforward continued in the power of the Parliament.

On Sunday, Nov. 23, 1647, Charles I., who had escaped from Hampton Court on the evening of Tuesday in the preceding week, and had crossed from Titchfield House to Cowes the preceding evening, entered the venerable gateway of Carisbrook Castle, which he had already visited twice as Prince of Wales, confiding himself to the protection of Colonel Robert Hammond, the recently appointed Parliamentary governor of the Isle of Wight.

He was at first treated with all demonstration of loyalty and respect. He met with courteous attentions, his actions were not watched, nor were his amusements restricted. He was allowed to visit his loyal subject Sir J. Oglander, at Nunwell, and enjoy the pleasures of the chase in Park-

hurst Forest, at that time plentifully stocked with deer; while Hammond endeavoured by every outward mark to make the king's residence in the castle resemble the entertainment of a honoured guest, rather than the confinement of a prisoner. Being a bachelor, he sent for his mother to superintend his domestic arrangements, and having represented to the House of Commons how insufficient his household appointments were for the reception of such a guest, the seals were commanded to be removed from Charles' bed-chamber at Hampton Court, and the furniture it contained was sent down to Carisbrook for his majesty's use. The royal character of this equipment is evident from the inventory of the articles sold after Charles's execution; among which were "beds of green and crimson velvet fringed with gold and silver," fetching one 120*l.*, another 130*l.*, "chairs and stools of crimson velvet," including "a small chair of crimson velvet which was Queen Elizabeth's," and an abundant supply of "Turkey carpets," and "Arras hangings," and basins, ewers, candlesticks, plates, dishes, cups, warming-pans, &c., of silver.*

The gentry of the island were at this time freely allowed to visit the court, and many of them were admitted to kiss the king's hand. At the same time the governor took every precaution to prevent his escape, which Charles was most anxiously endeavouring to effect. The very evening that the Scotch commissioners left him, bearing his rejection of the offers of the parliament (February 8, 1647–8), Charles hoped to have got on board a ship sent by the queen, which had for some time been waiting for him in Southampton Water; but Hammond, getting scent of his plan, watched him with redoubled vigilance, and dismissed his faithful adherents Ashburnham and Legg, together with his chaplains.

Little by little the former semblance of courtesy was laid aside, and the mockery of liberty changed for close restraint. Four warders, two at a time, were entrusted

* The particulars of the residence of the king at Carisbrook are derived from Mr. George Hillier's work, "Charles I. in the Isle of Wight."

with the care of the king's person. His only privacy was in his bedchamber, and even there a warder was stationed at the door. His lodgings were locked up every night, and the keys carried to Hammond. Twice a day, the weather being fair, it was Charles's custom to make the circuit of the castle walls, "trotting rather than pacing, he went so fast," accompanied by Hammond, who as a further means of recreation converted the *Tilt-yard* or *Place-at-Arms* within the counterscarp, into a bowling-green, where, as the spring advanced, the king was in the habit of spending many of his vacant hours. Ten pounds were allowed for the daily expenses of the king's table, at which he conversed with his attendants, principally respecting what was happening in other parts of the kingdom. Soon after dinner he retired to his chamber, where he remained secluded, invariably observing his allotted hours for writing and devotion. Sectarian bigotry did all it could to deprive the royal captive of the solaces of religion, and render his restraint still more irksome by polemical disputations. His chaplains were removed, and his entreaties that he might have one at least restored to him were disregarded; nay, the House of Commons expressed their indignation, that "because he may not have Episcopal men to preach to him he hears none at all;" and determined (December 12, 1657), to use what means they could to convince his majesty of his error, and "appointed some of their members to consider of some able divines to be speedily sent to him." Those disturbers of his peace were treated with a quiet contempt by Charles. One, Mr. Sedgwick, arrived at Carisbrook to discourse with the king on his spiritual concerns, and leave with him his lately written work entitled "*Leaves of the Tree of Life*," from the perusal of which he believed his majesty would derive much benefit and comfort. Charles on hearing that the worthy man had journeyed from London on purpose to have an interview with him, readily admitted him into his presence. "The leaves," however, he could not be persuaded to accept, "but after reading a portion he returned it with the remark, that by what he had read he

thought the author stood in need of sleep; an observation the minister received with much satisfaction and departed." The next day came another disturber of his peace, Mr. Harrington, from near Bath: to whom the king refused admission; whereupon Mr. Harrington wished the king much happiness and returned home. "Young Mr. Troughton, the governor's chaplain," was an antagonist he could not rid himself of so easily, for he "seldom failed being in the presence chamber when his majesty dined," and Charles was wont to enter into an amicable argument, in which it is said "his majesty always had the advantage." One day in the heat of the argument, the king suddenly drew his sword to the great alarm of the poor chaplain, but when the young man looked to be run through the body by his royal opponent, his fears were quieted by seeing the weapon used for the peaceful purpose of knighting a certain Mr. Duncombe, who happened to be present.

At this time the belief in the efficacy of the royal touch for the cure of scrofulous complaints flourished in all its vigour, and diseased persons crowded from all parts of the kingdom to Newport and the adjacent villages, and watched daily until the king's going to the bowling green gave them an opportunity of presenting themselves before him to receive his healing virtue.

Charles, closely watched as he was, found means to keep up an almost daily correspondence with his friends without, and to arrange plans for escape. His agent in this secret intercourse was Firebrace, one of the pages of his bedchamber; who, having discovered a private place in the king's sleeping apartment suitable for the purpose, deposited there the despatches that reached his hand, and the next day removed the king's replies. Afterwards, that Charles might have the power of holding secret interviews with his agent, a chink was pierced in the wainscot behind the arras, so that "upon the least noise, by letting fall the hanging, all was safe."

At this time the king was confined in the loftiest portion of the group of buildings immediately opposite the Great Gate; his apartments being on the first-floor of the gabled

building, recently restored by Mr. Hardwick, and now forming the residence of the keeper. The first plan of escape formed was to break through the ceiling of the king's bedchamber, and the floor of the room above, and drawing him up through the hole, convey him from room to room till he reached a part of the castle where no strict watch was kept. This design was never attempted; but a new plan was formed by Firebrace which wanted little of being brought to a successful issue. "The king was to make his way through his bedroom window, and let himself down by a cord into the court of the castle, and thence to part of the wall, towards the centre of the south side, where Firebrace was to let him down by a long cord, a stick being fastened across the end for him to sit on. Outside the counterscarp two other confidants of the plan (Mr. Edward Worsley of Gatcombe, and Mr. Osburn), were waiting on horseback with a good saddle, pistols and boots for the king. At the seaside was Mr. John Newland with a lusty boat to have carried his majesty to what port he thought fit." Every preparation was made, and all the actors well-instructed in their parts, but when the appointed time — March 20, 1648 — had come, and Charles made the attempt to pass his body through the bars, he found to his dismay, that he could "neither get forward nor backward, sticking fast between his breast and shoulders." "Whilst he stuck," writes Firebrace, "I heard him groan, but could not come to help him, which was no small affliction to me;" however, having "the instant before he endeavoured to come out mistrusted, and tied a piece of cord to a bar of the window within, he forced himself back. So soon as he was in again, to let me see (as I had to my grief heard) the design was broken, he set a candle in the window." Though the secret had been carefully kept, it transpired after the failure of the attempt, and reaching Cromwell's ears, through "a very considerable person of the parliament," he sent intelligence of it to Hammond, who, in consequence, removed Charles's lodgings in May to the line of apartments on the left of the entrance, which have ever since been connected with the

name of the monarch. It was from a window in this range, though certainly not that usually pointed out, that the second escape was planned, Firebrace, though no longer in personal attendance on Charles, being again the principal agent, with the complicity and help of Captain Titus. The bars were to be corroded with aquafortis, and cut through with files and saws, which Charles was to form out of two knives by means of "a hacker;" Charles was then to lower himself to the ramparts, make his way across the bowling green to the counterscarp, on the other side of which Worsley and Osburn would be in readiness with a horse, and Newland's boat waiting his arrival as before. But secrecy was not maintained as successfully as before: the arrangements became known in London, and were transmitted to Hammond, who took effectual measures to defeat the king's project. An additional guard was placed beneath the king's window; one, the brutal Rolph, prepared at once to shoot the king if he attempted to escape, and so "remove the chief obstacle to a settlement." When the king, therefore, looked out (Sunday, May 28th) to see if the attempt might be safely made, he discovered a larger number of persons standing about than the usual guard, and immediately suspecting that his plan was discovered he closed his window and retired hopeless to bed. The next morning, as Hammond writes, the bar was found "cut in two in the middle;" and the royal captive, convinced that it was vain for one so surrounded with spies to attempt to secure secrecy, seems in despair to have desisted from any further attempts at escape.

Various wild schemes for the king's enlargement were still talked about from time to time; at one time a fleet was to appear in the Solent, and land their men at night, while other loyalists, making Newport fair their excuse, were to cross from the mainland, the beacons were to be fired, and the country raised for the king: at another, the coal-porter was to carry the king a disguise which he was to put on, together with the porter's frock, and after locking the porter in his chamber, come down himself while the servants were at supper, and so pass away. At another,

Prince Charles was in the Downs with 19 sail, with the view of liberating his father; and Lord Rich was to go to the king under pretence of being touched for the evil, to make all needful arrangements.

But all proved abortive, only furnishing Hammond, who "now became a more important personage than his real character would have made him," (I. D'Israeli) an excuse for treating his prisoner with increasing rigour and insolence. The king's condition at this time was one of extreme desolation; all correspondence with his friends without was cut off, and his faithful attendants removed, with the exception of Herbert, to whom we are indebted for some interesting details as to the employment of Charles at this time. Writing of the king's pursuits, he remarks, "His Majesty gave Mr. Herbert the charge of his books, of which the king had a catalogue, and from time to time had brought unto him such as he was pleased to call for. The Sacred Scriptures was the book he most delighted in; and often read in Bishop Andrews's Sermons, Hooker's Ecclesiastical Polity, Dr. Hammond's works, Villalpandus upon Ezekiel, &c., Laud's Paraphrase on King David's Psalms, Herbert's Divine Poems, and also Godfrey of Bulloigne, writ in Italian by Torquato Tasso, and done into English heroic verse by Mr. Fairfax, a poem his Majesty much commended, as he did also Ariosto, by Sir John Harrington, Spenser's Faery Queen, and the like, for alleviating his spirits after serious studies. And at this time it was (as is presumed) he composed his book, called "*Suspiria Regalia*," published soon after his death, and entitled, "*The King's Portraiture in his Solitude and Sufferings*," which MS. Mr. Herbert found among those books his Majesty was pleased to give him, those excepted which he bequeathed to his children. In many of his books he delighted himself with the motto, "*Dum Spiro Spero*," which he wrote frequently as the emblem of his hopes, as well as endeavours for a happy agreement with his parliament."

We see that the *Eikon Basilikè* was considered by Herbert to have been the composition of Charles' leisure hours at Carisbrook, but there can be little doubt, notwithstanding

all that Dr. Wordsworth has urged in support of the king's authorship, that it was written by Dr. Gauden. From Sir Philip Warwick's testimony, it would seem that the king was before very long deprived even of Herbert's services, for he observes that, "being in the room with the king at Newport (at the time of the Treaty), he beckoned me, and showed me in the street an old little crumpling man, and asked me whether I knew him, 'No, Sir' (said I), 'I never saw him before.' 'I show him you' (says he), because that was the best companion I had for three months together in Carisbrook Castle, where he made my fires." Nor was the want of suitable society the only deprivation the unfortunate monarch had to submit to: "observing him," says Warwick, "to drink two parts of water and one of sack, I presumed to ask how he came to leave off French wines. He told me they afforded him no good, and then he thought this the better beverage; 'nay,' says he, 'whilst I have been here amongst them, I have wanted linen, which though I took notice of, I never complained.' "

Such are some of the details of the daily life of Charles I. in what Andrew Marvell calls, "Carisbrook's narrow case," during which "his hair and beard had become grey, his person neglected, his countenance clouded, while a settled air of melancholy evinced how fast a hold his calamities had obtained of him, and how conscious he was of the darkness of the prospect which was fast thickening around him." His captivity ceased, September 15th, 1648; when on the arrangement for the Treaty at Newport being concluded, (see p. 51) Charles was allowed, after eight months of close imprisonment, to quit the fortress, to which he never returned; remaining in Newport, after the conclusion of the Treaty, until his forcible removal to Hurst Castle by the army on the 29th of November, two months before his execution at Whitehall.

After the death of their father, the Princess Elizabeth, and Henry Duke of Gloucester, became inmates of Carisbrook Castle. After the flight of Charles from Hampton Court, a fear was expressed lest "the children's shoes be made of the same running leather," and a message was

sent to the Earl of Northumberland, their guardian, to have a strict eye over them, that they were not stolen away. All the vigilance exercised proved ineffectual to retain the Duke of York (James II.), who, on the 21st of April, 1648, left the room at York House in which he and his young brother and sister had been playing together at hide and seek, and slipping down stairs, made his escape by a private door from the garden into the park, without either coat, hat, shoes, or stockings. After this, the strictness of the watch kept over the younger children was redoubled, and subsequently to the king's execution they were committed to the care of the Countess of Leicester at Penshurst, who treated her wards with a kindness almost amounting to tenderness. They were removed to Carisbrook by order of Parliament on Friday, August 9th, 1650. On Tuesday the 13th they landed at Cowes, and were removed to the castle three days later. The choice of the place of their detention augured gross want of feeling, for Carisbrook must have been indeed a place of melancholy memories to the royal children. But there is no ground for the charge brought by Hume and others that they were treated with harshness or insolence; or that there was an intention of "apprenticing the princess to a button-maker." On the contrary, there is abundant evidence that they were tended with all due care and kindness, and that the orders of the Parliament to Colonel Sydenham, Hammond's successor as governor, that they should be "treated as the children of a gentleman," were carried out in a humane and considerate spirit. They were under the especial charge of Mr. Anthony Mildmay, "an honest and faithful gentleman," (*Clarendon*), a gentleman usher, a gentlewoman, laundry-maid and groom of the chamber. A yearly allowance of 1000*l.* was voted by Parliament for their maintenance, and one of the greatest hardships, next to the loss of their liberty, appears to have been that no one was permitted to kiss their hands, or to address them by their royal titles. While confined in the castle the prince was merely termed, "Master Harry."

The residence of the Princess Elizabeth in her father's

prison-house was of very short duration. Her constitution was naturally sickly, and her person deformed*, and the calamities, in the midst of which the greater part of her life had been spent, had not passed over her without leaving an enduring mark. Within a week of her arrival, Monday, August 22, a sudden shower fell while she was playing at bowls with her brother; she caught cold, a fever ensued, and though the advice of her father's physician, Sir Theodore Mayerne, was taken, and all the medical skill of the time employed, her enfeebled frame soon sank, and she breathed her last at 3 P.M. on Sunday, September 8th, 1650, at the age of fifteen. As an additional proof that there was no needless harshness in the treatment of the princess, we may mention that as soon as the Parliament was informed that "the Lady Elizabeth was indisposed, and had some inclination to go to her sister, the Princess of Orange," they decided that her wishes should be granted, and nothing but her premature decease prevented her speedy enlargement from captivity. After lying in state sixteen days she was honourably interred in Newport church (see p. 57).

The Duke of Gloucester, then a boy of ten years old, remained in the castle for two years after his sister's decease, under the care of his tutor, Mr. Lovel, until, in March 1653, Cromwell gave him permission to leave England. After residing a short time with the Princess of Orange he joined his mother in Paris, where he remained until her unnatural conduct, arising from her proselytising zeal, compelled him again to seek an asylum with his sister. It will be remembered that this promising young prince died in his twentieth year, very shortly after the Restoration, A.D. 1660.

Since the days of the Stuarts no historical interest was attached to Carisbrook Castle. It was still occasionally used as a prison, and a petition of the inhabitants of the Isle of Wight, charges the governor Lord Culpepper (1660-67) with having, "by his arbitrary power, imprisoned

* I am informed by those who were present when the coffin of the Princess Elizabeth was opened during the recent rebuilding of Newport church, that there was scarcely a bone in her body of its proper shape.

some of his majesty's good subjects in a noisome dungeon in Carisbrook Castle." When Lord Cutts became governor in 1700, he repaired and modernised the habitable part of the castle, in which he resided, maintaining splendid hospitality. After him no governor cared to make Carisbrook his residence, and it was used as a hospital for sick and wounded soldiers, until the appointment of Mr. Orde, afterwards Lord Bolton (1789), who is stated by Wyndham, in 1794, to have "lately rendered the governor's apartments a suitable residence for the honourable and profitable office which he fills with so much credit to himself and satisfaction to the islanders." After his time the office became almost entirely a sinecure, not requiring the presence of the governor, and the residence fell once more into a state of dilapidation, from which it has lately been partially rescued to furnish a house for the keeper of the castle.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CASTLE.

The Entrance Gates.

The entrance from the road is by *Queen Elizabeth's Gate*, a picturesque little building, draped with dark ivy, bearing the date of the 40th year of her reign, 1598. On the other side of the bridge, which crosses the dry moat, is *Woodville's Gateway* (erected by Anthony Lord Scales, circa 1464, and bearing his arms and the White Rose of York), a really noble specimen of a castellated entrance. The gateway is strengthened by a portcullis and bold crenellations, and flanked by round towers, pierced with cross loopholes for bows and arbalasts. The archway of entrance retains its old cross-barred wooden gates, which swung open heavily to admit the captive monarch, who passed through them for the last time when descending to Newport, at the close of August, 1648, to open the conference with the parliamentary commissioners. The vaulting of the entrance is good, and deserves attention. On either side are the guard-rooms and other portions devoted to the use of the garrison, all more or less in a state of decay.

The Great Court.

On entering the *Great Court*, to our left, are the ruins of the apartments to which Charles was removed after his first attempt at escape—an Elizabethan pile of building erected on the earthworks surrounding the area.

“The apartments occupied by the king consisted of a presence and bed-chamber, having communication by a passage that directly connected them, whilst to the principal door of the presence-chamber there was appended a staircase which descended to the courtyard, through the dwelling of the chief officer.”*

The stone mullioned window, which has been long erroneously shown and drawn as that through which Charles made his two attempts at escape, perhaps lighted the presence-chamber. His first attempt was made from the governor's lodgings; the scene of the second was a window, now blocked up and half concealed by ivy, only to be seen from the outworks. It is about ten feet from the ground, and opens upon the new platform thrown up by Hammond to guard his windows.

Governor's Residence.

The pile of buildings immediately opposite the entrance, long the governor's residence, retains under a modern dress some highly interesting work. The long room, running north and south, now divided into two stories, was *the Great Hall*, built by Baldwin de Redvers (1135—1156). One of its original windows, of Transition-Norman character, and its projecting chimney are to be seen on the east side, facing the keep, closely adjacent to the remains of the little early English *chapel* of William de Vernon (1184—1217), converted into the grand staircase of the governor's house by Lord Cutts. Only the sill of the east window remains, the side lancets are perfect, though that to the south is covered by subsequent erections, and now opens into the keeper's apartments. On removing the panelling of the

* Hillier's "Charles I. in the Isle of Wight."

staircase, a beautiful little arcade was brought to light. The chapel is now a perfect ruin, and will require all Mr. Hardwick's skill and judgment in its repair. To the south of the hall and chapel, a large gabled building contains the apartments erected by Isabella de Fortibus, which were evidently the chief rooms of the castle, and in which Charles the First resided until his attempted escape caused his removal to a less dignified but securer lodging. This portion of the castle has lately received a very careful repair under the superintendence of Mr. Hardwick. The basement is occupied by a kitchen now modernised. Charles's presence-chamber above, now occupied by Mr. Hearne,—the very obliging keeper of the castle,—contains a noble stone fireplace* and a hagioscope or squint communicating with the chapel, to enable those who were prevented by sickness or any other impediment from being present, to assist at the sacred offices. One of the lancet windows of the chapel will be noticed in the north wall of the room, looking sadly out of keeping with the *flock-paper*, with which unfortunately the walls have been covered. Over this room was the bed-chamber, from the window of which Charles made his first attempt at escape. Access to these apartments is given by a staircase turret. A buttress to the south bears the arms of Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, captain of the castle in 1385.

To the right of the green stand the ruins of the *Chapel of St. Nicholas*, a parish church, of date anterior to the Conquest, belonging to the Abbey of Quarr, endowed with the tithes of various detached portions of land, at Shalcombe, Roughborough, Luccombe, &c. The present building was erected on the site of the ancient chapel during the governorship of Lord Lymington, in the reign of George II., A.D. 1738. There was an old custom for the Mayor of Newport to be sworn in upon entering office in this chapel; but after the passing of the Municipal Corporation Act, a dissenter having been chosen mayor, either had conscientious scruples against entering "the house of Rimmon," or chose to dis-

* This fireplace has been built up since its recent repair, to prevent its smoking!

play his independence by refusing to conform to the established order of things, and the point having been yielded by the governor, the time-honoured custom has fallen into abeyance. After this, to the disgrace of the government, the roof was suffered to fall into decay, and a short time since the sacred building was entirely dismantled.

The Well.

The next object of interest,—the first in the esteem of a large proportion of the visitors,—is the celebrated well, dug by Baldwin de Redvers, circa 1150, after that in the keep had failed, and forced him to yield his castle to the power of King Stephen. Its depth has been variously estimated at 240, 300, and 450 feet, but is in reality 145 feet deep, “probably reaching the chalk marl, which is generally the first water-shed where the white chalk is perforated.” (*Mantell.*)

The well-house is a building of the fifteenth century, faithfully restored by Mr. Hardwick. The water, as is well known, is drawn up by an ass, working on the interior circumference of a huge wooden wheel, precisely in the same way that “turnspit dogs” made our forefathers’ roast meats revolve in front of the kitchen fires. The donkey is well accustomed to his work, and quietly walks into the wheel, and when he has drawn up the bucket, as quietly walks out again. The same mode of drawing up the water has been practised time out of mind, and the four-footed drawers have been remarkable for longevity. One died in 1771, after having fulfilled his duties for five and forty years: his successor died in 1798, at the advanced age of 32, after 26 years’ service, having for many years enjoyed the pension of a penny loaf *per diem* from the Duke of Gloucester, brother to George the Third. The donkey, who will now by his exertions enable the visitor to appreciate the excellent quality of the water, is a young animal who has been only 8 years at work. His predecessor died in 1851, after 21 years’ fulfilment of his duties. To show the depth and large bore of the well, a lighted candle is usually lowered by a small windlass, making “in its descent a

circle of light, continually lessening, until the lamp is seen to float on the surface of the water, at a depth that almost makes you dizzy to look down to."

The Keep.

From the well-house the visitor should proceed to THE KEEP, the site of the primeval Celtic and Saxon fortress, and of the first Norman castle of Fitz-Osborn. A wild tradition connects the keep with the mythical hero of ballad lore, Sir Bevis of Southampton, whose father's murderer, Sir Mordred, is said to have been boiled to death in an arch here. The ascent is by a steep and rugged flight of 72 broken steps, which are crossed near their summit by an arch, grooved for a portcullis. This, with the upper part of the walls, is of the time of Edward the Fourth: the lower portions of the *enceinte* preserve fragments of the earliest building. In a ruined chamber to the left is the well, nearly choked with rubbish, but still deep enough to need protection, as a very ugly fall may easily be met with by the unwary. The summit of the keep commands a very striking view, which would be worth the climbing for, were there no steps to assist the ascent.

The Mountjoy Tower and Outworks.

At the south-east angle of the castle is the *Mountjoy Tower*, with walls in some places 18 feet thick, the best view of which is to be obtained from the *tilt-yard* (entered by the postern gate), scarcely altered since the days when Charles the First whiled away the long hours of his captivity on its bowling-green, and his daughter Elizabeth was caught by the shower which produced her fatal cold. From the *tilt-yard* you may wander along the outworks, and, whether botanist or not, delight yourself in gathering the many-coloured flowers which spangle the smooth-shaven turf. A more delicious place for idling away a fine summer's day can hardly be conceived.

Carisbrook Church.

Descending the steep green slopes to the north, to the well-watered valley, you walk along a pleasant watery lane, and reach the village street, just where the church looks proudly down on its daughter, the “New Port” of Richard de Redvers, and the wide extent of territory once subject to its ecclesiastical sway.

Small way-side public-houses (the *Bugle* and *Carisbrook Castle*) are the only places of entertainment that Carisbrook has to offer, and with the superior accommodation of Newport close at hand, few would care to make the experiment of using them for more than a passing refreshment.

The *parish church* of Carisbrook (St. Mary, Rev. E. B. James, *V.*) served also for the church of the priory, founded here by William Fitz-Osborn as a cell to his recent foundation of Lire (from which the Biblical commentator Nicholas de Lyra took his name), in the diocese of Evreux. The revenues of the priory, in common with those of the other alien priories, was seized by Edward the Third, to enable him to carry on his French wars; but they were afterwards granted to the Abbey of Montgrace, in Yorkshire, founded by Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent (grandson of the Thomas Holland whose widow married Edward the Black Prince), in the reign of Richard the Second, 1396. Having espoused his kinsman's cause against Henry the Fourth, he was attainted and executed, and Carisbrook Priory was resumed by the king, and regranted to the Abbey of Lire, from which it was forcibly taken by Henry the Fifth, and given to his recent foundation of Shene. In the time of Henry the Eighth, the Carthusians of Shene leased Carisbrook Priory, together with the tithes of Godshill and Freshwater, to Sir James Worsley, whose daughter-in-law Ursula, the widow of his son Richard, carried it to her second husband, the well-known Sir Francis Walsingham. Walsingham not only destroyed the monastic buildings, but having persuaded the parishioners that the body of the church was large enough for them, and enforced his persuasions with the bribe of 100

marks, obtained permission to pull down the chancel, which his lease bound him to keep in repair. From the Walsinghams, the priory passed by purchase to the too notorious Sir Thomas Fleming, Chief Justice of the King's Bench (See p. 53).

The church of Carisbrook, though shorn of its fair proportions by Elizabeth's wily secretary, is still a very spacious building, but with the exception of the tower, quite devoid of architectural beauty. It is of the usual Isle of Wight type, consisting of a nave and south aisle, of equal height and breadth, separated by a plain Transition-Norman arcade. The *tower* is a really noble structure of the perpendicular style, plain, but of admirable proportions and excellent workmanship, with an enriched staircase turret, and crocketed pinnacles. Its resemblance to the towers of Godshill and Chale, suggest the idea that they were the work of the same designer. It contains a peal of 8 bells, the best in the island.

Carisbrook Church contains some interesting monuments: a rude incised slab of an ecclesiastic bearing a pastoral staff—an allegorical picture of a ship in full sail, with God's word for its compass, and Faith for its sails, and Hope for its anchor, commemorating William Keeling (died 1619), "General of the Hon. East Indian Adventurers," whose epitaph in verse, "hier fixed by his loving and sorrowful wife Ann Keeling," is worth reading*,—and that of Lady Dorothy Wadham, sister of Lady Jane Seymour, third wife of Henry the Eighth, and widow of Sir Nicholas Wadham, governor of the island in 1498—1517 (grandfather by his first wife of the governor of the college at Oxford that perpetuates his name). It is much defaced, but exhibits her kneeling effigy beneath a Gothic canopy; some small mutilated figures under niches in the background, are said by local tradition to represent "cripples," and to commemorate her beneficence towards the poor and lame. The pulpit deserves notice: it bears the date 1658.

* A full account of Keeling's "Voyage to the Spice Islands, 1607—1610," is given by Purchas, "Pilgrims," i. 188—203.

On the north side of the church stood the *Priory*, of which nothing now remains save a few rough stone walls among the farm buildings. The entrance gateway adjoined the north side of the nave, where its position is still marked by the set-offs, as well as by the large ugly perpendicular window put in by Walsingham when the gateway was demolished. It is evident, from a string course which runs along the wall, and other marks, that there was a cloister or ambulatory on this side, which communicated with the church by a small circular-headed door, with nook-shafts and capitals of stiff foliage, very early in the early English style. In the church wall to the east of this are two sepulchral recesses, now blocked up.

On the dissolution of monasteries the advowson reverted to the Crown, and was granted by Charles I., together with the churches of Niton, Whitwell, and Godshill, and others on the mainland, to Queen's College, Oxford; *not*, as is commonly asserted, as a return for the gift of its plate in his necessities, but on the intercession of his queen, Henrietta Maria, who as Queen Consort was the special patroness of the college, whose cause she so effectually pleaded. The grant of the advowsons was made Nov. 12, 1626; the so-called "loan" of the plate did not take place till sixteen years later, Jan. 5, 1642.*

The parish, which appears in Domesday under the name of "Boucombe" (Beaucombe = the fair valley), is still one of the largest in the island, 7409 acres, though the parishes of Shorwell, Chale, Kingston, Newport, and Northwood, have from time to time been taken from it. Its population in the time of Edward VI. was 1000, in 1301, 2353; in 1841, 5613; and at the last census, 7630, including 918 military at Parkhurst.

The Roman Villa

lies on the south slope of the hill, to the left of the village street, adjacent to the new vicarage. In digging the

* The last vicar appointed by the Crown was the royal chaplain, Alexander Ross, a voluminous Scotch writer commemorated in "Hudibras." Ross was ejected by the Puritans for his loyalty.

foundation of the vicar's new stables, in the spring of 1859, some fragments of Roman work were brought to light, which being happily noticed by a gentleman residing at Carisbrook, Mr. W. Spickernell, he obtained permission to pursue investigations, which resulted in laying bare the remains of the most considerable memorial of the Roman occupation which has been discovered in the island. Compared with the villas which exist in other parts of England, that at Carisbrook is of small dimensions, and the mosaics are of rude workmanship, and want the delicacy of those at Cirencester, or the elaborate design of that at Bignor; but the remains are of a highly interesting character, and well deserve a visit. The villa appears to have covered a space of about 120 feet by 50; including among other apartments, two large halls, one about 22 feet square, the other about 40 feet by 22, paved with tesserae of fragments of roofing tile, and one about 14½ feet square, which was evidently the chief room of the villa, floored with a rich mosaic pavement, of a very usual design, divided into compartments with guilloche borders, and lotus flowers and leaves, and a vase of flowers in the centre. The walls of this room when discovered were plastered and painted in panels with leaves, flowers, and other figures, which have unfortunately yielded to the frost. To the south-west is a semicircular bath, with its flue, blackened, when first discovered, with the soot of sixteen or seventeen centuries: a hypocaust adjacent has been destroyed by the erection of the stable. Some coins and a few small articles, with fragments of glass and roofing tile, were found among the rubbish, and have been carefully preserved. Warm thanks are due to the vicar, who has allowed the ground to be excavated, and the remains preserved, to his great personal discomfort, as well as to C. Seeley, Esq., of Brook, and Mr. Wilkins, of Newport, to whose munificence and active exertions the public are not less indebted for the preservation of these remains, than they are to Mr. Spickernell for their discovery. The small sum paid for admission, after defraying the expenses of the excavation, &c., is devoted to the parochial schools.

Route 12. Newport to Bowcombe Down, Gallebury Down, and British Village.

The views from the summit of Bowcombe Down (ascended in 1618 by Charles I. when Prince of Wales, to take a survey of the island), are among the finest and most extensive of our prospects. The walk along the ridge, by a so-called Roman road, is most delightful, and may be shortened at pleasure, by taking one of the tracks to the right or left, which lead you to the Calbourn and Shorwell roads, or continued along Gallebury Down to the site of the supposed British settlement, or further still, keeping the high ground, by a somewhat intricate track, to Afton Down, and Freshwater.

The tourist should enter on the Down at *Nodgem*, at the top of Carisbrook; he may leave it either by the road to the right to *Park Cross*, on the Calbourn Road ($2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Newport), or by the *White Lane*, to the left, immediately on entering Bowcombe Down, or by the fir-trees $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile further, and returning by the high road, making a round of about 5 miles.

The site of the *British settlement* (a mere collection of turf-grown ridges and pits) is about 4 miles from Newport, in the valley between *Gallebury* and *Roughborough* Downs. The tourist may descend thence into the Shorwell Road at Roughborough Farm and return, making a round of about 9 miles.

Route 13. Newport, by Love Lane, to Gatcombe Down and Ganson's Down.

Another very agreeable Down ramble may be enjoyed by leaving the Carisbrook and Gatcombe Road, a little past the new cemetery, along a beautifully embowered lane to the right, known as Love Lane, and reported to be a portion of the mythical road by which the tin was conveyed from Gurnard Bay to Puckaster. A footpath continued through two or three fields brings you out on the high ground above Gatcombe (overlooking the beautifully retired village, with its grey pinnaced church tower, nearly buried in trees),

and thence to Gatcombe village, where, turning to the right, *Ganson's Down* may be climbed, and, descending into the Bowcombe valley, Carisbrook reached by the quiet lane to the south of Bowcombe and Plash, a round of about 6 miles. If you turn to the left, you pass Gatcombe church, and crossing the Park, enter the Newport Road, and return either by Whitcombe, or Blackwater and Shide, a circuit of about the same distance.

Route 14. Newport to Watergate and Marvell.

Pleasant leafy lanes lead to *Watergate*, either to the left from the Whitcombe Road, a little past the Carisbrook cemetery, or to the right at the bottom of the hill beyond the Nodehill turnpike, before reaching Shide. A charming footpath leads through *Marvell Copse* into the Gatcombe road, making a very inviting round of about 5 miles, or Newport may be reached by Blackwater and Shide in about 4 miles.

Route 15. Newport to Shide, and Pan Down.

A footpath, leaving the town by the old churchyard, strikes across the fields by the side of the Medina to *Shide Mill*, from which *Pan Down* may be ascended; the view from the summit is varied and pleasing. Descending to Pan Farm, Newport may be reached in between 2 or 3 miles.

Route 16. Newport to Arreton, by Pan and St. George's Down.

This, which is the old road to Arreton, is now a mere bridle path, but very much to be preferred by those on foot or horseback to the more level road in the valley below. The views it commands are wide and interesting. The distance is about 3 miles. From Arreton it will be desirable to ascend Arreton Down, and return by Long Lane, 3 miles.

Route 17. Newport to Ryde, by old road, to Stapler's Heath.

(See Route 35.)

From the upper part of Stapler's Heath, which should be visited by everybody for the sake of its unrivalled view, a

lane to the left leads to Fairlee and back to Newport by the East Cowes road.

Route 18. Newport to Ryde, by new road. (See Route 34.)

Route 19. Newport to East Cowes. (See Route 9.)

Route 20. Newport to West Cowes. (See Route 6.)

Route 21. Hurstake and Dodner.

This is by no means an inviting walk at low water, when the estuary presents unsightly slopes of mud; but when the tide is up the ramble along the banks of the Medina is very agreeable. From Dodner, Newport may be reached by the high road past the House of Industry in less than 3 miles.

Route 22. Newport to Godshill and Ventnor. (10 miles.)

Leaving Newport by *Node Hill* we pass the modern church of St. John's on the right, and descend to *Shide Bridge*, where the post-mortem and other inquisitions were taken in the times of the Plantagenets. The mills are anterior to the Conquest. Here the road crosses the Medina, and continues up the valley,—“a transverse dislocation or rent across the range of chalk hills, produced by the tension of the strata during their elevation from the horizontal to their present nearly vertical position” (*Mantell*, p. 101),—until it crosses the water-parting between the Medina and the Yar Valleys at Rookley.

On the left are the steep slopes of *Pan* and *St. George's Down* (Route 16). *Standen House*, a plain brick structure lies at its foot. On the right the round hill of *Mountjoy* hides Carisbrook; the hanging woods of Whitcombe, Marvell, and Gatcombe add much beauty to the landscape. As we advance past *Blackwater* the view of the rich vale of Arreton opens on the left; on the right *Gatcombe House* (Mrs. Bidgood) and the pinnacled tower of *Gatcombe Church* rise from the finely-wooded park. Passing *Pidford House* (3 miles) on the right, a narrow road leads to Gatcombe, and thence north to Carisbrook, and south to *Chillerton* (4 miles) and *Kingston* (6 miles).

Climbing the hill to *Rookley*, (a manor giving its name to an ancient family afterwards settled at Brook,) and passing the school-house, the road parts; the right-hand branch going to *Niton* and *Chale*, the left, which we pursue, across *Kennerly Heath*, now enclosed, to *Godshill* and *Ventnor*. A little further, at a spot known as *Bohemia* (in the dry banks about which the *Cotyledon Umbilicus*, or Navelwort, grows abundantly), we gain a fine view of the valley of the Yare and the colossal barrier of chalk downs, Shanklin, Wroxall, Week, and St. Catherine's, at the foot of which, high up on an insulated ridge of the ferruginous sand, stands the long low church of *Godshill*, with its fine tower, a conspicuous landmark in all the country round.

Godshill. (6 miles.)

There are few prettier villages than Godshill to be seen anywhere in England, and the neighbourhood is so rich in lovely country walks that a tourist with time at his command might spend two or three days with great enjoyment at the little inn, the *Griffin*, which offers comfortable accommodation. The church (of which the old tradition is told, so common elsewhere to explain the position of sacred edifices on elevated or otherwise inconvenient sites, of spirits, either good or evil, transporting the materials from the valley below during the night, until the builders were constrained to acquiesce in the change of situation) stands on an isolated knoll, whose broken sides, rich in colouring and profuse vegetation, offer many tempting studies to an artist. Hollow lanes burrowing in the red soil wind up its flanks, on which the pretty grey-stone thatched cottages are scrambling in picturesque defiance of order. In the spring the abundance of wild flowers adds to the charm of the place; a rough plot of ground to the east of the church, above the Newport Road, produces a profusion of daffodils, the lovely flowers spangling the turf and waving their delicate cups in the breeze. The Periwinkle brightens the sandy hedge-banks with its large blue stars, and the Early Meadow Orchis (*Orchis Masculula*) shoots up its sturdy spike, of the richest purple, wherever a bank is allowed to

remain in its natural wildness. The tourist should leave his carriage at the entrance of the village, and walk up the picturesque lane to the right, opposite the substantial village-school, to the west end of the church. The view from the churchyard is one of the loveliest in the island; though not so extended as those from the higher elevations, the isolation of the knoll affords unbroken prospects on all sides. To the north the eye embraces the whole of the vale of New Church, with the undulating ridge of the Chalk Downs beyond, ending towards the valley of the Medina in the abrupt slope of St. George's Down. The white cliffs of Culver are just descried over some rising ground to the right; to the left we have the ridge separating the valleys of the Yar and Medina, and the bold line of Chalk Downs, which here take a due southerly direction. To the south the view is more varied. The northern front of the southern chalk range, with its bold projecting spurs, and sinuous valleys lies before us. Appuldurcombe, or Week Down, with its shattered obelisk, bold wall of cliff (the northern face of the fire-stone stratum, which gives its picturesque character to the Undercliff), and rich hanging woods, rising immediately in front over the scattered houses and leafy knolls of the village; to the west is the huge mass of St. Catherine's, marked by the twin pharoses, and the slender Alexandrian pillar; to the east rises the more picturesque outline of Shanklin Down, with its belt of timber half concealing its cliffs, on the summit of which stands the modern ruin of Cook's Castle.

The church of All Saints (a vicarage united to Niton, Rev. Thomas Ratliff, C.) deserves a visit. Like many of the island churches, of which it is one of the largest and best, it consists of two equal gabled aisles, with no constructional distinction between the nave and chancel. The east end, with its double gable and decorated window half overgrown with ivy, is a picturesque object; at the west end of the north aisle stand the pinnacled towers, of perpendicular date, probably the work of the same architect as the neighbouring towers at Chale, Gatcombe, and Carisbrook. A small transeptal chapel projects on either side and

breaks the length. On the gable of that to the south is a *Sancte Bell Cot*, which deserves notice. The walls of the church are encrusted with many-coloured lichens, red, orange, black, white, grey, which afford a real treat to the student of this humble but most interesting form of vegetable life. Pretty little ferns once grew in the crannies of the stones, but unscrupulous visitors have eradicated all within reach. Entering the church by the south door, a tablet meets the eye on either wall of the porch, one nearly obliterated, the other supplying its deficiencies, and blazoning the virtues of one Richard Gard, whose

“ . . . gifts endowed the schools, the needy raised,
And by the latest memory will be praised ; ”

and breathing the prayer —

“ May our isle be filled with such a name,
And be like him whom virtue clothed with fame.”

This said Richard, according to Sir J. Oglander, being a shrewd dishonest French refugee, who amassed considerable property by various base practices ; getting possession of title-deeds of estates, under colour of examining them, he would discover some flaw, and by base and fraudulent representations drive the parties to a composition.” *

The interior is spacious, the aisles divided by 6 well-proportioned arches rising from octagonal piers.

The *monuments* are more interesting than usual, and deserve examination. The greater part are to various members of the *Worsley* family from “ Sir James,” captain of the isle (who by his marriage with Anne Leigh, daughter and heiress of Sir John and Lady Leigh of Appuldurcombe, was the first of the family to obtain a footing in the island), to “ Sir Richard,” in whom it terminated in 1805, and of

* “ Among other of his vicious practices he was known to steal a cow, and put hot loaves just taken from the oven upon her horns to make them supple, and by that means he would turn them the contrary way, and so disfigure the poor beast that the owner of her might not know her again.”

their collateral branches. The floor is covered with ancient monumental slabs which in Sir J. Oglander's time bore effigies and inscriptions in brass, in memory of the ancient families of "*De Heyno*" of Stenbury and Whitwell; *De Aulas* or *Hawles* of Spann; and *Frys*, lessees of Appuldurcombe. To the south of the Communion Table is a good altar tomb, under a richly worked canopy of the early part of Henry the Eighth's reign, (well deserving Sir J. Oglander's commendation as "the fairest tomb in our island,") bearing the effigies, in alabaster, of Sir John Leigh, of More in Dorsetshire, and his wife Mary, the heiress of the Hackets of Woolverton, and widow of the last of the Frys of Appuldurcombe. The knight lies in complete armour, with a collar of S.S. round his neck; the dress of the lady bears the armorial bearings of her family. Against the north wall is a cinquecento monument with kneeling effigies of Sir James Worsley and his wife Anne, the heiress of Lady Leigh, through whom Appuldurcombe came into the family, and on the opposite wall one in a similar style to their eldest son James, "Captain of the Isle," (d. 1565), and his two sons killed when boys in the gate-house of Appuldurcombe, by an explosion of gunpowder which "the servants were drying against the general muster."* The helmet and gauntlets are still suspended over this monument, and that of Sir John Leigh. In the north transeptal chapel, erected by Sir Robert Worsley, is a large but tasteless marble monument with busts of himself and his brother Henry, Governor of Barbadoes, the last of the elder branch of the family, without name or date. The opposite transept (formerly the burial-place of the Priors of Appuldurcombe), is encumbered by an enormous sarcophagus, in still worse taste, erected to Sir Richard Worsley, the last of the line, by the late Earl of Yarborough, who in consequence of his intestacy succeeded to the whole of his estates in right of his wife, Miss Simpson, Sir Richard's niece.

* His widow Ursula married Sir Francis Walsingham, and by him became mother of the wife of Sir Philip Sydney."

Tradition assigns the foundation of the church to the time of Edward the Confessor: certain it is, that it was in existence immediately after the conquest, when it was one of those bestowed by Fitz-Osborn on the Abbey of Lire. On the dissolution of the alien priories it was given to Shene, and reverting to the Crown was presented by Charles I. to Queen's College, Oxford.

Godshill church was the scene, in the fourteenth century, of some of those unseemly disputes between the seculars and regulars then so common. Letters from two successive Bishops of Winchester A.D. 1307, 1340, are given in Worsley's History, complaining that the monks had taken violent possession of the church, and fortified themselves therein, holding it by force of arms against the bishop, and begging the king to interpose his authority in their behalf.

The church was struck by lightning in January 1778, and considerably damaged. The lightning descended the tower, loosening the masonry; and entering the church, proceeded along the whole length of the wall above the arcade to Sir John Leigh's monument, where it dislodged a portion of the mouldings, and made its way into the ground below the east windows. Soon after this the gable fell, and continued some little time in ruins.

A grammar school was founded here by Sir Richard Worsley, in 1614; but though former writers speak of it as in a state of efficiency, the endowment has proved entirely inadequate, and the intentions of the founder have ceased to take effect. The curate for the time being has been for some time past the nominal master of the Grammar School, and the occupier of the premises built on the site of the old "Chantry House."

Dr. Henry Cole, successively Fellow of New College, Prebendary of Salisbury, Archdeacon of Ely, Warden of New College, Provost of Eton, and Dean of St. Paul's, who has attained an unhappy celebrity in the history of the Reformation, from the readiness with which he changed his faith in accordance with the tenets of those

in authority, and from having preached the sermon when Cranmer was burnt, was a native of Godshill.

Godshill parish is very extensive, containing 6535 acres ; its population, which had increased between 1801 and 1841 from 1079 to 1435, had sunk at the last census to 1316. It reaches from Rookley to the sea at Steephill, 6 miles in a straight line, but its outline is very irregular.

Godshill to Ventnor.

On leaving the village, the road by Park Farm to Appuldurcombe diverges to the right: we continue up the hill to the pretty hamlet of *Sanford*, with its yew tree and ivy-clad cottages (where a road to the left leads to New Church and a pretty lane to the right (*Redhill Lane*), after skirting the park, joins the main-road near Wroxall), pass the little corn mill, which in its name of *French Mill* keeps up the memory of the time when the French monks of Montebourg, of which Appuldurcombe was a cell, owned the manor of Godshill, and leaving the gardens of Appuldurcombe to the right, climb the steep hill, once shaded by *Cleveland Wood*, of which only a few scattered trees remain, and descending again, reach the little hamlet of *Wroxall*, one of the many manors of the great Earl Godwin, held of him by the Countess Gueda. At *Wroxall Cross*, a pleasant lane to the left leads to the crest of the Downs, whence those on foot or horseback may descend upon Shanklin, Bonchurch, or Ventnor. Our road continues up the bare valley, which here breaks the continuity of the southern range of chalk downs, to *Sloven's Bush Turnpike*, and thence descends upon *Ventnor*. Owing to the rise of the down the sea is completely hidden until we reach the edge of the steep descent, when, on passing through the chalk cutting, a view of no ordinary beauty suddenly bursts upon us. The scattered houses of Ventnor, with its conspicuous schools and taper spire, lying immediately below — to the left, the lofty shoulder of St. Boniface Down, with the weather-stained, ivy-clad cliffs of Bonchurch and its villas peeping out from the foliage beyond — to the right the Undercliff, and Woody Point thrust-

ing its bulk out into the sea which roars and foams about its base—and the limitless ocean sweeping round in a blue semicircle in front—combine to form a panorama which, when once seen under favourable circumstances, cannot readily be forgotten. (For Ventnor, see Route 61.)

Route 23. Newport to Whitwell. (8 miles.)

The most direct route diverges from the main-road to Niton (see next route) at the *Star Inn* on Kennerly Heath, and crossing the Yar near *Beacon Alley*, skirts the western slope of the Downs. (Off the road to the left lies *Stenbury*, a picturesquely situated manor-house, once the seat of the De Heynos, and afterwards of a branch of the Worsleys, whence pleasant horse tracks lead across *Week Down* to Ventnor).

A more agreeable route pursues the Niton road to the foot of *Bleak Down*, where it diverges to the left and descends by pretty lanes to the Yar valley at *Berry* and *Roude*, whence a narrow lane commanding noble views of St. Catherine's Down and the valley at its foot leads into the former road, close to *Ford Mill*. The village of Whitwell commences about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile beyond the mill, and extends along the road for nearly a mile. At the church a road branches off to Niton and St. Catherine's on the right; continuing straight on we reach St. Lawrence and the Undercliff. (See Route 70).

Route 24. Newport to Niton. (9 miles.)

As far as Rookley the road is the same as that to Ventnor. At Rookley the right hand road is taken, leading over *Kennerly Heath* and *Bleak Down*, a wild tract now enclosed and much curtailed by the progress of cultivation, but still affording an excellent collecting ground for the botanist, who will also find at *Cridmore Wilderness* (taking the first lane to the right, after passing the *Star Inn*) a rich abundance of bog vegetation, flourishing in the peaty beds through which the sluggish stream of the infant Medina soaks. Besides commoner ferns, the *Marsh Fern*

grows abundantly, and the *King of the Ferns* waves his rich brown tufts in the most magnificent profusion.

The views of the steep slopes of Appuldurcombe and Week Downs on the left, and St. Catherine's Downs running northwards in a long narrow ridge, crowned with Hoy's "Alexandrian Pillar," below which is *the Hermitage*, (J. Hawkins, Esq.) are fine; but as we draw near Niton the valley, in common with the heads of the chalk valleys generally, loses its picturesque character, and becomes bare and open. For the village of Niton and its neighbourhood, see Route 70. 1 m. further is the Sandrocks Hotel.

Route 25. Newport to Chale. (9 miles.)

To reach Chale the tourist leaves the Niton road at the foot of Bleak Down, and passes on the right *Lashmere Pond*, (a well-known botanical collecting ground,) with fine views of the bold northern escarpment of St. Catherine's Down. [A bridle-road to the right leads across the Medina to *Kingston* ($1\frac{1}{2}$ m.)] Crossing *Stroud Green*, and passing the scattered cottages of *Chale-Street*, he reaches *Chale Church*, and $\frac{1}{2}$ m. further, the *Blackgang Hotel*. (Routes 71, 75.)

Route 26. Newport to Gatcombe (3 miles), Kingston (6 miles), and Chale ($8\frac{1}{2}$ miles).

This is a pleasant excursion, presenting no very striking features, but full of quiet beauty. The vicinity of *Gatcombe* is richly wooded, and the *Vale of Chillerton* is one of the best specimens of the narrow gorges which are so characteristic a feature of the Chalk Downs, here massed together in several parallel ranges running from N. to S. nearly at right angles to the general direction of the chain.

Leaving Newport by *New Village*, the road passes between the grey ivy-clad ruins of *Carisbrook Castle* on the right, and the new *Cemetery* on the slopes of *Mountjoy* on the left, and soon descends to the pretty hamlet of *Whitcombe*, ($1\frac{1}{2}$ m.) embowered in orchards and rich in luxuriant shade; the hills to the right are beautifully fringed with hanging wood, which continues to increase the charm of the valley till

beyond Gatcombe. Passing the steep road to the right, which leads to the little old-fashioned village and parsonage of

Gatcombe (3 miles),

we reach the lodge giving entrance to the church and park. The *Church* (St. Olave, Rev. John Barrow, D.D., Principal of St. Edmund Hall, Oxford, *R.*) is hardly worth turning out of the way for as a specimen of architecture, but its situation in a quiet green glade, surrounded with fine trees and rich park-like scenery, is very lovely. Its best feature is the pinnacled tower of the same period, and probably by the same hand as those of Chale and Godshill, Carisbrook. One lancet remaining on the south side testifies to the original date of the Church, but nearly all the windows are late Tudor, containing fragments of stained glass. The tower-arch is very good; beneath it is some tolerable screen work. The most interesting object in the Church is a crossed-legged *wooden effigy* of a knight in complete armour, under a semicircular arch on the north side of the Church. This figure is of much earlier date than those in Brading Church, and deserves careful attention. The monument bears no inscription, (the common people used formerly to call it St. Rhadegund or St. Uly = "*Eligius*," "*Eloy*,") but from the style of the hauberk of mail and surcoat, which is of the time of Edward I., it probably represents one of the family of *Estur*, to whom the Manor of Gatcombe (as well as those of Whitwell and Calbourne) belonged from the time of the Domesday survey till the reign of Edward II., when one of the *Lisles* of Wootton marrying the heiress, their possessions passed to that family. We find some names of historical interest among its subsequent possessors; Dudley, the joint agent with Empson of Henry the Seventh's illegal exactions, and Sir Geoffrey Pole, brother to the Cardinal. The estate came to the Worsleys by purchase in the time of John, the son of Sir James, the favourite of Henry VIII. whose son bequeathed it to his second son John, (Appuldurcombe being left to the elder Sir Richard,) in whose descendants it remained till its purchase a few years since by Lord Ashburton.

Mr. (afterwards Sir) Edward Worsley of this family, was one of the most devoted adherents of Charles I. during his imprisonment in the island, and his active and zealous agent in his various attempts at escape. (See Carisbrook.) On the failure of the second attempt, May 28th, 1648, Worsley and his companion Osburn, in riding off from the castle, received the fire of the musketeers unhurt, and succeeded in reaching the boat; but the master refused to let them embark, as they had come without the king, and they were compelled to conceal themselves in the adjacent woods for some days, procuring sustenance in the night by the assistance of a kinsman of Mr. Worsley, who eventually provided a vessel to take them off from the south side of the island. Another more romantic version of Worsley's escape is, that he was put into a large chest, which was placed under a load of faggots and conveyed to Wootton Park, whence he got safe to King's Quay, and passed into Holland. The former tale is probably more authentic. The watch presented to him by the king as a token of his gratitude is in the possession of his descendant, Miss Rosetta Worsley of Shorwell.

The present manor-house (Mrs. Bidgood) is a heavy stone building, not devoid of a certain degree of stateliness (erected in 1750 by one of the last of the Worsleys), surrounded with ornamental timber, which clothes the lower slopes of the downs behind it.

Gatcombe is a small parish of 1392 acres, taken out of Carisbrook, by which it is surrounded; its population at the last census was only 260, a diminution of 46 in ten years, and only an increase of 38 since 1801. The rectory is annexed to the Principalship of St. Edmund Hall, Oxford, having been purchased by the University of the Worsley family in 1821, with a bequest of Dr. George Holme, Fellow of Queen's.

Shortly after passing Gatcombe House, a lane branches off to the left across the Medina valley to *Rookley* and *Godshill*, the nearest way from Carisbrook to Ventnor. The main road continues up the valley to *Sheat* (on the right), a fine old gabled manor-house surrounded with rich foliage, containing some interesting Jacobean carving. Sheat was one of the

few properties whose Saxon possessor, Alaric, was not disturbed by the Norman invasion. Opposite Sheat a bye road turns off to the left passing through a pretty hollow lane, with good sections of the upper greensand, and up the Medina Valley, by *Loveston* to *Cridmore Wilderness* (see p. 99), and by *Bleak Down* to *Niton* or *Whitwell*,—a very pleasant walk or ride.

The road we follow climbs a narrow gorge between the chalk downs which hem it in on either side, passing the pretty hamlet of *Chillerton* ($4\frac{1}{2}$ miles), partly in Carisbrook parish and partly in that of Wootton (7 miles off in a straight line), with a bright crystal rivulet dashing along the roadside. A noble shoulder of down overhangs the hamlet, on which and the adjacent downs a watch and two men were stationed as late as 1638. Crossing the head of the chalk valley, as usual bleak and naked, we descend to the broad lower greensand district, stretching from the Downs to the sea, and passing *Billingham House* ($5\frac{1}{2}$ miles), once the seat of one of the many branches of the Worsley family, with no noticeable features, we reach the little church of *Kingston* ($6\frac{1}{2}$ miles), and turning to the right, *Chale Church* (9 miles). The Blackgang Hotel is $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile distant. Kingston and Chale are specially noticed in Route 75.

Route 27. Newport to Shorwell. (5 miles.)

Climbing to the top of the steep village street of Carisbrook, the road diverges to the left, and passing the new vicarage, descends into the *Vale of Bowcombe*, deriving its name, “the fair valley,” from its fertility, which before the destruction of the wood which not long since clothed its sides, had much beauty to boast of. It is now somewhat bare and open, and offers no peculiar attractions. Passing the ancient homesteads of *Bowcombe* and *Idlecombe*, the road follows the valley as it winds among the downs, and reaches *Roughborough*, on the right (3 miles), the best point of divergence for the examination of the site of the so-called “British settlement,” between Roughborough and Gallebury Downs. Proceeding up the gap

which here breaks the continuity of the chalk range, and crossing the ridge, we descend upon the richly-wooded village of *Shorwell*, with its ancient manor houses and picturesque spire, all the more attractive by contrast with the bleakness we have just left. (See Route 75.)

Route 28. Newport to Freshwater Gate. (11 miles.)

View from Alvington Down — New Road — Swainston : Calbourne Church — Westover — Walks from Calbourne to Brighstone — Gallebury Down — British Village — Shalfleet and Newtown — Freshwater Limestone Fossils : Chessel — Saxon Cemetery — Shalcombe and Afton Downs — Afton House — Freshwater.

The road from Newport to Freshwater passes through the village of *Carisbrook* (1 mile), and mounts the steep side of *Bowcombe* or *Alvington Down* (from the summit of which Charles I., when Prince, viewed the island, Aug. 27, 1618), looking down on the right on the antique manor-house of *Alvington*, a manor which, at the time of the Domesday survey, included the castle of Carisbrook within its limits. The view here is striking—a well cultivated valley lies immediately below, scattered over with homesteads and copses, the remains of *Parkhurst Forest*, breaking down to the wide estuary of the Medina, on the opposite side of which are seen the square towers of Osborne; in front are the woods of *Swainston*, with the long winding arms of the *Newtown estuary* gleaming here and there through the dark foliage, and the *Solent*, like a broad purple river, stretching between us and the shores of Hampshire; while in the extreme distance the Freshwater ranges, *Highdown* to the left, and *Headon Hill* to the right,—raise their lofty heads.

The old road, carried up, and down the rapid slopes and deep valleys of the Chalk downs, was dangerously steep, and the evil has been remedied in the last two or three years by deep cuttings and embankments; but the engineering was defective—the soil proved treacherous, and such frequent slips have taken place, that even now it may be well for the traveller to inquire whether the new road is practicable

before he ventures upon it. The deep cutting at *Apes Down* shows interesting sections of the vertical chalk and the dark plastic clay, on opposite sides of the road, exhibiting the same formations which are developed in a more striking manner at Alum Bay.

Passing the openings of some pretty wooded valleys [up which the pedestrian may stroll pleasantly to the ridge of the downs (p. 108)], we reach the ancient residence and manor of

Swainston (3 miles),

the seat of Sir John Simeon, Bart. Few spots in the Isle of Wight are connected with names of greater historical interest. It was originally bestowed by King Egbert in 826, on the church of Winchester, and at the Doomsday survey was held by Bishop Walkelyn, of whom "seven lords held 6 hides, from which they could not remove without forfeiting their land." The bishops of Winchester held the manor till the reign of Edward I., when Bishop John de Ponteserrâ purchased peaceable possession of his other temporalities by giving up this to the king. Edward II. settled it on his sister Mary, a nun at Ambresbury, in exchange for Wilton (which with other manors had been assigned by their royal father for his expensive and voluptuous daughter's maintenance); but subsequently gave it to his son Edward III., then Earl of Chester, whom he had recently invested with the lordship of the island, and who shortly after his accession rewarded the faithful services of William de Montacute (who had seized the queen's paramour Roger Mortimer at Nottingham), with this manor and other substantial tokens of his favour. At a later period we find it, either by descent or royal grant, in the hands of "Warwick, the king-maker," "false, fleeting, perjured Clarence," and Margaret Pole, Countess of Salisbury, butchered in her old age by Henry VIII. Queen Mary restored it to the Countess' granddaughter, from whom it descended by marriage to the Barringtons and Simeons.

The house is a square modern building, principally erected by Sir J. Barrington, but it contains some early fragments,

a two-light Norman window, and the east gable of an early decorated chapel, which are worth examination. The woods which surround it are fine. On the high ground to the left of the road the tourist will remark the "Temple of Boreas," a summer-house with a Doric portico, commanding a fine view of the Solent and the opposite coast, and will soon reach the pretty village of

Calbourne (1½ miles),

lying round a green, shaded with fine elms, at the further end of which stand the picturesque church and quaint old rectory on a steep bank, beneath which gushes forth a crystal stream — the Caul-Bourne — whose supply is sufficiently copious to turn a mill within half a mile of its source. The tourist should by all means diverge from the main route to visit this pretty secluded spot, and if not very choice as to his accommodation, he may do worse than spend a night at the village inn (the *Sun*), and thoroughly explore the neighbourhood. If want of time forbids this, he should, after inspecting the church, descend to the little village street, which runs by the side of the brook, and crossing some pretty fields, gay in spring with a profusion of cowslips and rich purple orchises, meet his carriage at *Fulling Mill Farm*.

If on his way to Yarmouth (Route 29), he should at this point cross the Freshwater Road to the *mill*, and pursue the stream through the meadows to *New Bridge*, about ½ a mile, and then continue his drive.

The traveller bound for Freshwater, equal to a pleasant walk of 5 miles, will find a *footpath* which will carry him almost in a straight course from *Calbourne Mill*, by *Churchills* and *Tapnell* farms, to *Freshwater Church*: it is occasionally difficult to trace, but may generally be recovered if lost, as its direction is always the same, and the High Down affords a good landmark.

Calbourne Church.

Calbourne Church (All Saints, Rev. Arthur M. Hoare, *R.*) is one of the four named in Doomsday Book, and before the alterations of 1836 obliterated the more ancient features, had

portions which might be assigned to a very early period. The earliest parts now existing, the chancel and south aisle, are excellent examples of the early English style; the eastern windows are of great value in the history of window-tracing; they consist of 2 independent lancets, with a foliated circle pierced in the wall above. In 1836, the heavy Norman arches were replaced by a light Early English arcade, copied from that of Shalfleet, and a new north porch was erected, and the north transept rebuilt, by Sir R. G. Simeon, as a mortuary aisle. The interior walls of the transept are ornamented with blank windows in the Decorated style, containing tablets inscribed with the monumental records of the family, with an abundance of space for future generations. Forty years ago a fine table-tomb supported on pillars of shell marble, with a brass effigy of a knight in armour under a canopy, stood in the south chapel: this was ruthlessly destroyed in 1816; the canopy has entirely disappeared, but the effigy is rudely inserted in a rough slab in the pavement of the south aisle, and deserves attention. It is of about the end of the fourteenth century, and probably commemorates one of the Montacutes of Swainston. In the north wall of the chancel is a brass plate bearing a singular epitaph in memory of the "Reverend, Religious, and Learned Preacher, Daniel Evance," the intruding minister of Calbourne during the Commonwealth, with an anagram on his name, "I can deal even." Buckler, one of Cromwell's chaplains, was ejected from this cure under the "Black Bartholomew Act."

The tower at the west end of the south aisle, "risen from the ruins of near 50 years," was rebuilt in 1752. There is the unusual feature of a western porch. The living, to which the chapelry of Newtown is attached, is a rectory in the gift of the Bishop of Winchester. The parish contains 6397 acres: its population has increased but slowly in the last half century; in 1801 it was 692; in 1841, 750; in 1851, 781.

Calbourne, in common with the other parishes in the island, had its long brass gun, now preserved at Portsmouth.

On rising ground to the south-west of the church stands

Westover (a manor of the Esturs, from whom it passed to the Lises), the seat of the Hon. W. Ashe A'court Holmes, eldest son of Lord Heytesbury, in right of his wife, daughter of the late Sir Leonard W. Holmes. The house is modern, and contains a valuable series of portraits of the Worsley and Holmes families. The grounds are laid out with much taste. In the plantation on the hillside above the house, the rare *Monotropa* is to be found.

Walks about Calbourne.

The lane which passes *Westover*, known as *Lynch Lane*, leads by a good and not very steep road to *Calbourne Bottom*, a depression in the central ridge of downs, and thence to *Brighstone* (3 miles). From the summit the tourist may diverge to the right or left, and enjoy the noble view of the opposite coast, extending from Hayling Island (east) to St. Aldhelm's Head (west), including the Beaulieu Firs, the Beaulieu River, Lymington River, Christchurch Bay, and Poole Harbour, bounded by the Isle of Purbeck.

Gallebury Downs may also be pleasantly reached by turning up the lane opposite *Swainston*, and passing *Ashen Grove*—or by *New Barn Bottom*, between that place and Calbourne—both prettily wooded valleys running up into the chalk ridge. From Gallebury beacon, the site of the ancient British village, *Roughborough Bottom*, may be easily attained.

At the *Crossways* in Calbourne, the traveller may diverge to the right to Newtown and Shalfleet (see Route 30). A pleasant walk leads by the side of the brook, across fields from *Newbridge* (1 mile from Calbourne) to *Shalfleet Church*.

To the *geologist*, the neighbourhood of Calbourne is one of much interest. The beds of eocene freshwater limestone (Bembridge beds), which run across the north of the island from Bembridge, by Binstead, to Sconce Point near Yarmouth, rise sufficiently near the surface to be used for building purposes at various spots within a mile or two of the village; where a rich collection of the characteristic fossils may be obtained, and in a much better state of preservation than at Binstead. The best localities are *Dodspits*, to the left of the Yarmouth road, a little beyond Newbridge; and the

quarries in the lane running east from Newbridge to Street Place Farm ; and a little inquiry as to where stone is being dug will doubtless discover other equally abundant fields. "Occasionally the shells are preserved, but for the most part sharp casts alone remain. The limestone occurs in large concretionary masses, forming regular beds of moderate thickness, in calcareous marl; the strata have a slight northerly dip, 4° slightly E. of N." (*Bristow*.) Those fossils which are rare at Binstead are here comparatively plentiful.

After passing Calbourne the road becomes less interesting. There is a pretty spot near the Westover Lodge, where richly-coloured steep banks of "Bagshot sand" are shaded with overhanging wood, but the road soon enters on a series of broad tabular hills, over which it undulates rather monotonously. In about 2 miles the tourist reaches *Chessel* Farm, above which, to the east of the Brook Road, lies the *Saxon Cemetery*, recently investigated with such interesting results by Mr. G. Hillier.* [At this point a road to the left leads over a depression in the Downs to *Brook* Church and Brook Point, with its raft of fossil trees (2 miles).] Here the country becomes still more bare, and the traveller should by all means leave the turnpike-road and ascend *Shalcombe* and *Afton* Downs, across which a tolerable carriage-road, commanding views of indescribable beauty on each side, leads to *Freshwater Gate* (4 miles). The turnpike-road continues at the base of the Downs to *Afton* (where a road to the right leads to Thorley and Yarmouth), (2 miles), and passes *Afton House* (B. Cotton, Esq.), pleasantly situated on a slope near the river. Across the fields to the right may be seen the little church of Freshwater; on the left, appear the hotels (*Plumbley's*, Lambert; *Albion*, Murrow, both excellent houses), and lodging-houses of *Freshwater Gate*.

Route 29. Newport to Yarmouth, by Calbourne and Thorley.
($11\frac{1}{2}$ miles.)

This route is identical with the last as far as Calbourne, where it diverges to the right, and passes by *Newbridge* and *Dodpits* to *Wellow* and

* See Hillier's "Hist. and Antiq. of Isle of Wight," pp. 27-38.

Thorley (9½ miles),

a pleasantly situated village, with a quaint little church (St. Swithin, Rev. T. Hockley, *R.*), shaded by fine trees, standing among the buildings of a large farmyard, and with so little to distinguish it from a barn that it may be readily passed unnoticed, more especially as some barbarous churchwarden has cut off both the east and west gables, and covered the whole with a hipped roof. The belfry over the south porch is curious, and perhaps unique.

Thorley is a parish of 1574 acres; the population was only 154 at the last census, 9 less than in 1841; in 1801 it was 128. Lady Adeliza, widow of Baldwin de Redvers (circa 1184), gave the advowson of the church, and *the tithe of rabbits* to the priory of Christchurch Twynham, founded by her husband. At this time Thorley was little better than a large warren, which, according to a survey (*temp.* Edw. III.), produced as many as 500 rabbits every year, of which 50 went as a tithe to Christchurch, the remainder being sold at 2*d.* a head for the benefit of "my lord the king." To secure their preservation the underwood was forbidden to be cut. Thorley is now a parish of considerable fertility, and produces excellent corn.

Crossing the Thorley brook, the road reaches the shore, along which it runs at a little distance above the sea, with exquisite views of the opposite coast of Hampshire, forming an attractive entrance to the neat little town of Yarmouth.

Route 30. Newport to Newtown and Yarmouth. (10 miles.)

The road from Newport to *Yarmouth* passes the Grammar School, and, crossing the Lugley, ascends Honey Hill, and branches off from that to West Cowes, opposite to the House of Industry, by the side of the Albany Barracks. For the first two or three miles it skirts the low unpromising plantations of young oaks, "with Scotch fir and larch nurses," formed in 1815 on a portion of the royal forest of Parkhurst as a nursery for dockyard timber, and offers nothing of interest beyond the views of Newport and Carisbrook, and the

long undulating line of downs, with the Celtic tumuli on their ridge, standing out against the sky. Sixty years since this was almost the worst road in the island, not practicable even for two-wheel chaises, winding intricately among the bogs and difficulties of an uncultivated heath, with no less than fifty-two gates to open before reaching Yarmouth. When the forest, which had lain for centuries as an unprofitable waste of upwards of 3000 acres, nominally held by the governor, but really a common for the whole country to put in horses and beasts without stint, was disparked, and, with the exception of the crown allotment, brought into cultivation, a new road was formed inferior to none in the island. The once wild common is dotted over with farms, whose names still tell of its original destination: among them are Park Green, Park Cross, New Park, Little Park, Great Park,—the last-named having been visited by Charles II. on his progress, in 1671, from Gurnard Bay to the house of Sir Robert Holmes, at Yarmouth. With the exception of the infant plantations (which the “Parliamentary Return” of 1853 describes as “much neglected, no well-arranged system of management being carried out,” with a deficit to the Crown of 13,809*l.* between 1813 and 1847), the whole of this once “Royal Forest” is entirely cleared of wood until we reach *Watchingwell* (3½ m.) (a manor formerly belonging to the nuns of St. Mary of Wilton, mentioned in the Domesday survey as having been included in the King’s park subsequent to the time of the Confessor, and therefore the earliest park recorded), where we enter upon an undulating tract covered with low broad-spreading oaks, among which the sinuous creeks of the Newtown River wind their way. Leaving *Swainston* on the left, we soon reach the road to the right, which leads across the head of one of these oozy branches to the once municipal and borough town of

Newtown,

which is worth a visit, if on no other account, as an example of the utter decay of a formerly populous and thriving town. Though once superior in size and commercial prosperity to

Newport, and still possessing a harbour deemed the best in the island, Newtown does not now even deserve the name of a village. A decaying town hall, built by subscription in 1699, now used as a national school; a little church erected as the last act of the expiring corporation from the proceeds of the sale of the small municipal property, on the site of one which had been for centuries in ruins; a farmhouse and about a dozen cottages scattered along the sides of leafy green lanes, which were in the last generation still known as *High Street, Gold Street, Kay Street, Draper's Alley*, &c., constitute the whole of Newtown, which at the census of 1831, before the Reform Bill robbed it of its ancient parliamentary honours, contained a population of 68 souls.

The original lords of Newtown were the Bishops of Winchester, one of whom, the greedy and vicious Aymer, half-brother of Henry III., granted the original charter, giving "the burgesses of *Francheville*," as it was then called *, "all liberties for customs, &c. held by his burgesses of Taunton, &c." This charter was confirmed by several of our monarchs, after the Manor of Swainston passed from the bishops to the crown in the reign of Edward I. Edward II. granted his son Edward III., when Earl of Chester, "a market on Wednesday in his manor of Newtown, and a fair of three days." The last or governing charter was given by Elizabeth.

Few places have suffered more severely from hostile invasions, to which its position at the head of a deep and safe harbour exposed it: it was destroyed by the Danes in 1001, and, to omit other less sweeping devastations, again by the French during their occupancy of the island in 1377. From this last calamity it never recovered. It was rebuilt, and assumed the title of the "King's borough of Newtown," but Newport fast drew more and more of the trade of the island to itself, and though it was still of sufficient importance in 1585 to receive the privilege of returning two representatives to parliament, its prosperity never returned

* Sir J. Oglander says it was, "agreeable to its name, a *free town*, where any one might go or come for 40 days without let or hindrance."

to it, and its history for the last three or four centuries has been of one continual and rapid decline.

The corporation, which merely existed as a machinery for securing the patronage of the borough to certain families, was composed of a titular mayor, a private friend of each of the three patrons of the borough being chosen in succession, twelve burgesses and other officers, including two day labourers dignified with the titles of "town serjeant" and "constable." The income of the little property was allowed to accumulate after paying a few regular charges, "until some repairs to the Town Hall swallowed up the whole." The right to vote was restricted to the owner of thirty-nine small plots of ground, called "burgage tenements," * divided unequally among the families of Holmes, Barrington, and Worsley, the two last generally combining to return the members. These tenements "were conveyed for life to some friend of the proprietor, but in case of its being inconvenient for him to attend and vote, the estate was transferred to some other friend, who was immediately elected into the corporation." † The borough was represented in 1678-81 by "John Churchill, Esq.," afterwards Duke of Marlborough; in 1705 by the hero of Vigo Bay, Admiral Sir Thomas Hopson (p. 219). At the commencement of his political career, when first brought into parliament by Pitt in 1793, Canning sat for this borough, for which he was again returned in 1806 and 1807.

The Church is a Chapelry to Calbourne, the rector of which was bound "at his own cost to maintain a priest uprising and downlying, to reside in the house adjoining the churchyard." Both church and house fell into ruins with the gradual decay of the town; the former was in existence in 1558, when the commissioners reported that there was "not a single good house standing in the town;" but before the end of the last century it was reduced to an ivy-clad

* Two of these small tenements were sold in 1782 by Lord Mount Edgecumbe to Sir R. Worsley for one thousand guineas.

† Parliamentary Report on Municipal Corporations, 1835.

fragment, which was incorporated into the new building, erected in 1837. The present chapel of the Holy Spirit (Livesay, Arch.) is a high-shouldered E. English building, groined in plaster, with its mouldings and other architectural members "run in compo." The interior is of pleasing design, though the air of unreality which is painfully apparent spoils all. The niches on either side of the east window, which is filled with armorial bearings in stained glass, are portions of the original building.

On the shores of the creek below the church are several large *Salterns*, which are worth a visit. The sea-water is allowed to run into square shallow pools or pans, where it is exposed to the sun and wind, and changed from pan to pan six times in succession. When the work of evaporation has gone far enough, the brine is pumped up into large iron pans in which the remaining water is driven off by boiling, and the salt crystallises.

There is a wayside inn at Newtown, where humble accommodation may be obtained by the tourist who wishes to ramble among the green lanes and low oak copses which surround the town. It is a district rich in quiet enjoyment, in which one may wander pleasantly for hours.

Crossing a streamlet abounding in trout*, which has its rise at Calbourne, and turns a mill mentioned in Doomsday, at a picturesque spot to the right, we reach

Shalfleet (1 mile),

where the only object of interest is the Church, (Rev. T. Cottle, V.) which is one of the largest and best in the island, though sadly needing a thorough purification from whitewash and pews. The huge, low, almost windowless tower, with mutilated cornice and shingled spire (erected in 1808 in place of a leaden dome), marks its Norman date by a billeted moulding which runs round it. The north door with a rude bas-relief of a figure laying its hand on two griffins' heads, in the tympanum, is a good specimen of the same style. The rest of the Church is late E. English or Early

* See Part III., Zoology, Freshwater Fishes.

Decorated of the time of Isabella de Fortibus, whose arms, with those of Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, have only recently been removed from the windows. The chancel closely resembles that of Arreton; the windows, of two lights, with foliated circles in the head, are very good. The chancel-arch and arcade dividing the south aisle from the nave are worth attention. The piers are of shell-marble, like those of Arreton, but are still doing penance in a sheet of whitewash. The south aisle windows are singular; beneath that to the east are shallow monumental recesses, bearing the date 1630, but no name. On the floor of the chancel lies a huge monumental slab of shell-marble dug up from the churchyard, bearing the shield and spear of an unknown warrior, of the style of the 11th, or early part of the 12th century.

The Church, which is mentioned in Domesday, was given by Edward III. to William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, who bestowed it on his newly-founded Abbey of Bisham, Berks: the advowson now belongs to the Lord Chancellor.

The parish, inconveniently enough, includes several detached portions, one at *Watchingwell* to the east of Calbourne; another at *Hulverstone*, close to Brook Church. It contains 6623 acres: the population in 1801 was 626; in 1841, 1218; at the last census, 1245.

As we advance, we pass *Ningwood* (or *Lingwood*) *Green*; the site of a manor given by Baldwin, Earl of Devon, to Christchurch Twynham Priory.

This is the most convenient place to visit *Hempstead Hill*, which has become celebrated in consequence of the discovery by Professor E. Forbes, in the autumn of 1852, of the *Hempstead beds* of Eocene strata, of more recent formation than any other portion of the Isle of Wight.* The hill rises 210 feet above the sea-level, and is rich in fluviatile fossils: the sea-cliffs are continually foundering, and exhibit a series of landslips and terraces towards the north.

* Lyell, *Manual of Geol.* p. 193; *Memoir of Geol. Survey*,—Forbes on the Isle of Wight, p. 37.

Crossing *Ningwood Common*, and passing *Bouldner*, the road soon reaches the low alluvial flat, at the N.W. angle of which, on a tongue of land between the Solent and the Yar estuary, stands the neat little town of Yarmouth, which, though despoiled of its parliamentary honours, preserves its corporation, and enjoys a degree of prosperity which is likely to be increased by the opening of the railway to Lymington, and the completion of the bridge across the Yar.

The entrance to the town, formerly across a moat and drawbridge, lies along a high bank commanding beautiful views of the Solent, and is remarkably attractive. The town is specially described in Route 84.

CHAPTER III.

RYDE.

Route 31. *Early History*—Population—Fielding's Visit—Wyndham—Tomkins—Vancouver—Establishment of Pier, Steam-Boats, Board of Commissioners—*Position* and Aspect from the Sea—The Landing—Pier—Esplanade—Walk through Town—Hotels—Lodgings—Churches: St. Thomas, St. James, Holy Trinity—Chapels—Cemetery—Public Buildings: Town Hall, Market, Theatre, Arcade, Yacht Club-House, Post Office, Banks, Electric Telegraph—Bathing—Boats—Conveyances—Fares—Climate—Health—Water Supply.

Excursions from Ryde—General Remarks.

Route 32. Ryde to Binstead, Quarr, Fishhouse, and Wootton.

- 33. " East Cowes, by the New Road, and by Brock's Copse and King's Quay.
- 34. " Newport, by Wootton Bridge.
- 35. " " Stapler's Heath and Old Road.
- 36. " Aldermoor and Haven Street.
- 37. " Ashey Down, Newchurch, and Ventnor.
- 38. " Sea View, St. Helen's, Brading, and Nunwell.
- 39. " St. Helen's and Sea View, by Lanes and Paths.
- 40. " Brading and Sandown.

Route 31. Ryde.**History.**

FROM its proximity to Portsmouth, Ryde (or, as it was called by our ancestors, *La Riche* or *La Rye*) always possessed a certain degree of importance as one of the chief points of communication with the mainland; and, however small, was undoubtedly one of the chief places in the Isle of Wight. In the reign of Edward III., A.D. 1341, it was one of the three recognised ports (see p. 33), and a watch was stationed here—the watch-house standing on the site of the coffee room of the Pier Hotel—to give notice of the approach of an enemy. In spite of all precautions, when the island was occupied by the French at the commencement of the reign of Richard II., Ryde was burnt to the ground. At the time that the blockhouses were planted by Henry VIII. at Sandown and Cowes, a “bulwark,” with a single gun, was mounted for the defence of Ryde.

Ryde was a member of the manor of Ashe, belonging to the abbess of Wherwell, near Andover, who, in 1538, demised the whole to Giles Worsley for a rent of 12*l.* and ten couple of rabbits. Shortly afterwards it was granted to the same party by Henry VIII. for the sum of 759*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* In 1565 the manor of Ashe was divided, and the part in which Ryde was included was sold to Anthony Dillington, by whose descendants it was again sold, in 1704, for 3120*l.* to Henry Player (brewer for the government in the time of Queen Anne), in whose family it still remains.

Sudden as has been the growth of many of our watering-places, few have risen more rapidly than Ryde. In 1656 a parliamentary commission reported that “the village of Ryde containeth about 40 families, counting about 220 persons.” A hundred and forty years later (1795) Albin estimated the number of inhabitants at “nearly 600.” In 1811 Ryde contained 1601 inhabitants, and, after the erection of the pier in 1814, the population continued to increase rapidly, and in 1821 amounted to 2876. The number of inhabitants at the last census, in 1851, was 7147, being 333 more than

those of Newport, raising this once inconsiderable hamlet to the position of the most populous town in the island. The population was reckoned in 1858 at 9108, and the number of inhabited houses at 1656.

One of the first glimpses we have of the condition of Ryde is that given by the satirical pen of Fielding the novelist, who touched here on his voyage to Lisbon. The position charmed him; "its situation," he says, "I think most delightful, and is the pleasantest spot in the whole island. It is true it wants the advantages of that beautiful river which leads from Newport to Cowes; but the prospect here, extending to the sea and taking in Portsmouth, Spithead, and St. Helen's, would be more than a recompense for the loss of the Thames itself, even in the most delightful part of Buckinghamshire or Berkshire." Little had at that time been done to overcome the difficulties of access, or render the village when reached agreeable to visitors. "Between the sea and the shore at low water," he continues, "there is an impassable gulf of mud and sand, which can neither be traversed by walking nor swimming, so that for near one half of the twenty-four hours Ryde is inaccessible by friend or foe." At that time there was no pier or even landing-stage, and when the poor shattered novelist wished to land, he was "hoisted into a small boat, and being rowed pretty near was taken up by two sailors, who waded with him through the mud and placed him on a chair on the land." Here he found much that was attractive in "the pleasant village." "The fertility of the place," he says, "is apparent from its extraordinary verdure; and it is so shaded with large and flourishing elms that its narrow lanes are a natural grove or walk, which in the regularity of its plantation vies with the power of art, and in its wanton exuberancy greatly exceeds it, while the walks are always so dry, even after the most violent rain, that a fine lady may walk without wetting her silken shoes." But with all these natural advantages the village itself presented little that was inviting. A few sailors' and fishermen's huts on the beach, a straggling group of cottages and small mean houses on the top of the hill, an

ill-supplied and comfortless inn, where neither tea nor vegetables were to be had, an extortionate virago as a hostess, a meagre squalid population, partly occupied in farm labour, partly in the various occupations of a seafaring life, with, what was then its almost necessary adjunct, the dangers and excitements of smuggling; such was Ryde hardly more than a century ago. When Wyndham visited the Isle of Wight in 1793 there had been some improvement since Fielding's time; he calls Ryde "a populous village," boasting of "two tolerable inns, with chaises and whiskies, and many decent lodgings to be hired in the place." The *village* was still divided into "Upper" and "Lower Ryde" by "a field of nearly twelve acres, flanked on the west with a thick grove of lofty and flourishing elms that descend even to the water's edge with the same gentle declivity as the field itself, the waving declination of which could scarcely be improved by the ingenuity of the most fashionable artist." So dense was the grove at the upper part of this field, and so steep the bank at its lower extremity, that Wyndham remarks it as a singular circumstance that from a particular bench, to which he was directed for the view, (which "there bursts upon our enraptured sight,") both the villages were completely hidden.

In 1796, Tomkins speaks of Ryde as "a village consisting formerly of a few fishermen's houses, but increasing yearly, owing to its being much frequented with company." His view, taken from the shore, looking west, shows us no more than a few poor cottages and a small stage erected for the convenience of shipping the lambs which then, as now, were exported in large numbers for the London market. In 1808 it was "chiefly supported by its fishery and ferry, and the demand for fresh provisions and sea-stores by vessels coming within its reach." (*Vancouver, Agr. Surv.*) Its rude jetty in 1815 gave place to the pier, nearly half a mile in length, to the erection of which, and the establishment of steamboat communication in 1825, the subsequent prosperity of the town is mainly attributable. An Act of Parliament, investing a board of commissioners with the manage-

ment of the town, was obtained in 1829, which was succeeded by another Act in 1854, under the provisions of which it is now ably and efficiently administered.

Position and Aspect from the Sea.

Nine-tenths of the visitors to the Isle of Wight make their first acquaintance with it at Ryde. The shortness of the passage from Portsmouth, nominally twenty minutes, but varying somewhat according to wind and tide, and the frequency with which the steamboats make the transit, joined to the attractions of Ryde itself, and its proximity to the beautiful scenery of Shanklin and the Undercliff, combine to render this the favourite entrance to the island. The town occupies the north and east faces of a hill of moderate elevation, on which the white houses rise in orderly clusters, and is gradually stretching across the valley, and stealing up the slopes of the opposite hill. From amidst dark masses of foliage the handsome frontage of *Brigstocke Terrace* is a prominent object; to the right the taper spires of *St. Thomas* and *Trinity Church* rise, the one on the summit, the other on the steep brow of the hill to the left, and the long low black *Pier* stretches far out over the muddy shore, best hidden from view by the tide. The newly-erected club-house of the *Victoria Yacht Club*, with its long line of arched windows, will be noticed near the pier to the west, while beyond the lately-formed esplanade to the east, the villas of the new suburb of *St. John's*, and the bright red Elizabethan turrets of *Appley Towers*, appear above the trees. Beyond this, further to the south-east, the coast is fringed by a rich woodland, coming down quite to the water's edge, bounded by the little headland of *Old Fort*, with the neat lodging-houses of *Spring Vale* and *Sea View*, beyond which a passing glimpse may be caught of the entrance of *Brading Haven* and the sheltered roadstead of *St. Helen's*. Over the whole stretches the range of *Chalk Downs*, which bisect the island, swelling in their gently undulating outlines. To the north-west the eye roves along the woody shore, rising in

green waves, and indented by little inlets, above which, to the extreme right, rise the Italian campaniles of her Majesty's residence at Osborne.

The Landing.

The visitor is inclined to grumble,—where is an Englishman *not* inclined to do so?—at the various inconveniences connected with landing at Ryde Pier: the narrow plank to be crossed,—the steep flight of steps to be ascended,—the long waiting time until the whole of the luggage is disembarked; the difficulty of knowing and securing his own in an incoherent mass of portmanteaus, boxes, and bags with a marvellous family likeness,—and the length of the walk to the pier gates; and though the improvement is great from the time which many still remember, described by Capt. Marryat in his "*Poor Jack*," when "the wherries came out as far as they could, and were met by a horse and cart, which took out the passengers and carried them through the mud and water to the high ground;" yet these discomforts are real ones, especially when the party is large and burdened with much luggage, and the weather wet and stormy. This is still more the case with invalids, who form so important a portion of the visitants to our island, and to whom what are to others mere inconveniences, are evils productive of serious or perhaps fatal consequences. It is true, Bath chairs are always waiting the arrival of the steamers, but these are but uncomfortable expedients, and we gladly hail the promise of increased convenience in the old, as well as the formation of a fresh way of approach to Ryde, in connection with the Stoke's Bay and Steam Ferry Company, whose new iron pier stretches across the mud banks to the left.

The Pier.

The first stone of the Pier was laid June 29, 1813, and it was opened in the following year. It was then only 1740 feet long, but it was extended 500 feet in 1824, and as many more in 1833; the wide pier-head and pavilion were added in 1842, and again enlarged in 1856, and are at the present

time receiving further additions. The total length of the pier is now 2250 feet (nearly half a mile), its breadth from 12 to 20 feet. It is the property of a joint-stock company. The toll is 2*d.* for each foot passenger. The Pier forms a most delightful promenade, crowded during the season with the usual tribe of walkers and loungers — earnest seekers after health and rational enjoyment, as well as languid killers of time, the most miserable of human beings.

Esplanade.

On leaving the Pier the tourist finds himself on the *Esplanade*, completed in 1856 from the designs of Mr. Newman, the town surveyor, and forming a noble walk and drive, 1150 feet in length, commanding fine views of the roadstead and shipping, and of Portsmouth and the opposite coast. Its pleasantness as a promenade has been injured by the formation of a small dock and landing stage in connection with the new Pier, which, however convenient, is no addition to the attractiveness of the town. The southern extremity extends over what was formerly known as "*the Duver*," a sandy waste (once visited by the botanist, as the habitat of several rare plants), in which many of the crew of the *Royal George*, whose bodies came ashore here, were buried. In Sir H. Englefield's time, their resting-place was marked by grassy mounds on the low sandy flat; but builders and speculators respect neither graves nor flowers, and the whole tract is now covered with houses.

Walk through the Town.

The streets of Ryde, running for the most part parallel with or at right angles to the shore, are generally wide and clean; many of the shops, especially in and about *Union Street*, are handsome and well-stocked, and there are many private houses in the town and environs of a superior class. Few of the private dwellings are without more or less garden or pleasure ground, where shrubs and flowers flourish more luxuriantly than is usual in towns, thus taking off much of the baldness and garishness which is so painful in

Brighton and other seaside resorts. Little can be said in praise of the architecture generally; there are praiseworthy exceptions, but, as a whole, Ryde shows too much of the showy and insipid style now so fatally prevalent.

A tourist who has but little time at command may spend an hour agreeably enough in strolling through the principal thoroughfares, which, though bright and cheerful, present little to detain him. We would recommend him, on leaving the pier, to turn to the left along the *Esplanade*, and enjoy the fine view of Portsmouth and the adjacent coast; at its south-east extremity let him turn his face westward, and inquiring for *Melville Street*, ascend the hill, turning aside for a minute to view the handsome church of the *Holy Trinity* (the only building of any ecclesiastical character in Ryde), and passing the *Independent Chapel*, with its stuccoed front and feeble Corinthian portico, at the corner of *George Street*, enter through *Cross Street* the gay and busy thoroughfare of *Union Street*. This, which is now the main street of Ryde, was fifty years ago no more than a cart-track, uniting the upper and lower villages, taking the place of the narrow path and stiles which previously crossed the corn-fields by which the two portions were then separated. At the top of Union Street *Lind Street* branches off at right angles, by the side of the ungainly *Theatre*; a few steps along this street will bring the visitor to *St. Thomas's Church* (which is utterly undeserving of notice); *the Town-hall and Market* (a convenient building of Grecian design), and *St. James's Chapel*. Descending to *Brigstocke Terrace* (Sanderson, Arch., 1829), he may enter the *Arcade* at the back, and proceeding along its sheltered walk, find himself again in *Union Street*.

If he wishes to see what Ryde was, before it became a place of fashionable resort, he must continue up the hill from the top of Union Street along *High Street*, which consists principally of small low houses of the end of the last century but little altered. Here also he will remark the highly decorated front of the *Roman Catholic Chapel*, and if he pleases, can make his way down the slope of the hill, through

the rising suburb of *St. John's* (in St. Helen's parish), and meet his carriage at the turnpike.

Hotels.

The remarks which have been made on the hotel accommodation of the island generally, are specially applicable to Ryde (p. 15). The principal houses are good but expensive, and many will be glad to leave them without delay for lodgings, of which the town offers the greatest possible variety, at charges differing according to season, situation, size and number of the apartments. The leading hotels are the *Pier Hotel*, close to the pier gates, commanding a fine sea view, with a spacious coffee-room and excellent accommodation for private families; *Yelf's Hotel*, almost the oldest in Ryde, occupying a prominent situation at the top of Union Street; *Roper's Royal Kent*, also in Union Street; and *Sivier's*, with a fine sea view, adjoining the Yacht Club house. There are also the *Crown*, at the junction of High and Union Streets; the *Eagle*, on the strand, with a splendid sea view, which offers comfortable accommodation at somewhat cheaper rates; the *Star*, an old established inn in Upper Ryde, (the mention of which occurs before 1670,) is said to be a good second-class house, with moderate charges.

Although something may be urged against the Ryde hotels on the score of expense, in other respects they are all that can be desired, and except in the height of the season—when the meanest accommodation is sometimes not to be obtained, and visitors have been fain to sleep in bathing machines and the refreshment boxes on the pier,—one may be sure of good fare, civility, and excellent lodging; all in the strongest possible contrast to poor Fielding's experience at Mrs. Francis' establishment in 1754, when fresh meat was not to be had, "butchers never killing ox or sheep during beans and bacon season," and he was fain to send to a lady's house in the neighbourhood to beg some tea and vegetables, while hay and corn was only to be procured from the neighbouring farmers.

Lodgings.

Nine-tenths of the private houses in Ryde are lodging houses, and the tourist who wishes to sojourn here for a few days or weeks, has an ample field before him for selection. Boards attached to the fronts, or suspended in the windows, will direct him in his search, or he may apply to any of the house agents, of whom the principal are, *Messrs. Wallis, Marvin, Riddett, Scott, and James*, in Union Street, and *Mr. Knight* in Pier Street. Ryde is essentially a summer resort, and it is deservedly a great favourite with those who visit it at that time; and consequently the charges are then the highest. In the winter there is a considerable reduction, and you may obtain first-rate houses for a smaller sum than in the height of the season you would pay for very second-rate lodgings.

Churches and Chapels.

The ecclesiastical buildings of Ryde will not detain us very long. Being only a portion of the parish of New Church — a long narrow strip, 10 miles long by 1 broad, stretching completely across the island, from Ryde on the north to Ventnor on the south, with its church to the south of the Downs, nearly 6 miles from Ryde — all its churches are modern, and with the exception of that most recently built, *Holy Trinity*, quite unworthy of notice. A commission appointed by Cromwell in 1656, "for the uniting of parishes in the Isle of Wight," recommended that the inhabitants of the "village" of Ryde having "so far and fowl ways to their own parish church," it should be joined to Binstead, where at that time it "attended the ordinances, and buried most of their dead." The idea of appending the populous town of Ryde to the tiny parish of Binstead strikes us as something almost ludicrous, now that their relative population has so marvellously changed: but at the time it was given the recommendation showed the same good sense which characterises the other propo-

sitions of the commissioners, which, if carried out, would have proved very beneficial to the wide-spread parishes of the island. It is needless to say that the recommendation was not acted upon, and Ryde continues, as it ever has been, within the parochial boundaries of New Church, from which it is now fast spreading into the adjacent parish of St. Helen's. Until 1719, no provision was made for the supply of the religious wants of the inhabitants of Ryde. At that time Thomas Player, Esq. built a small mean chapel — called after himself, *St. Thomas* — and endowed it with the munificent sum of 10*l.* to be paid yearly to the vicar of New Church to officiate there himself or by deputy. A single service on the Sunday was all that was afforded for many years, and the diminutive size of the building was in keeping with the meagre amount of services celebrated within it, until in 1827, the present church (Rev. H. Morris, C.) was erected by George Player, Esq. then Lord of the Manor. It professes to be Gothic, and exhibits bald mullioned windows, an emaciated spire, and a meagre characterless interior. No higher praise can be given to *St. James' Church*, (Rev. H. Ewbank, P. C.) a little to the west of *St. Thomas'*, erected as a proprietary chapel two years later (1829), by Hughes Hughes, Esq. Alderman of London. This church had once some notoriety as the scene of the ministrations of the Rev. Waldo Sibthorp.

The Church of the Holy Trinity, (Rev A. J. Wade, P. C., T. Hellyer, Arch., 1845) is a more satisfactory building. It occupies a commanding situation on the brow of the hill towards the south-east, and its tower and spire, which rise to the height of 146 feet, form a conspicuous ornament to the town from almost every point of view. The style of the church is Early English, and both externally and internally it is a pleasing and graceful structure. It terminates in an apse, which would be much improved by the substitution of a groined ceiling for the present timber roof. The transept, which joins the church in a very awkward manner, is a blot on the fair proportions of the

building. There are some painted windows, and the font, pulpit, and other fittings are rich and handsome.

There is no lack of chapels of various denominations of dissenters to suit the requirements of the numerous visitors. The most conspicuous is the *Independent* or *Congregational Chapel*, whose Corinthian portico, with its stucco pillars, is one of the most prominent objects in George Street. The original chapel was built in 1816, the present structure dates from 1853. Within, it forms a spacious open-roofed hall, decorated with Corinthian pilasters; what corresponds to the chancel being occupied with a massive pulpit, and Holy Table of snowy whiteness. The Rev. Mr. Coletart is the minister.

The Wesleyan Chapel stands in Nelson Street; minister, Rev. Mr. Kevern.

Free Wesleyan Chapel, High Street. Mr. Dimmick.

Baptist Chapel, John Street. Rev. S. Cox.

Primitive Methodist Chapel, Star Street. Rev. Mr. Pritchard.

Plymouth Brethren, Albert Street. Sir Charles Brenton.

The Roman Catholic, (Hansom, Arch., 1845, Rev. J. Telford, R.) which stands in Upper Ryde, deserves a passing notice, from the elaborate richness of its architecture. The front, towards High Street, is somewhat overdone with ornament, and greater simplicity would have had more effect. It is in the Early English style. The altar of the *Angelus Chapel* was designed by Pugin. The chapel was built at the sole cost of Elizabeth, Countess of Clare; a fact commemorated on the inner moulding of the principal doorway.

The Cemetery

lies to the north of the town. It was consecrated in 1842, to the great accommodation of the town, but it is already inconveniently crowded.

Public Buildings.

The secular buildings of Ryde are not of a character which calls for much remark. The chief is the *Town Hall*

and *Market House* * in Lind Street (Sanderson, Arch., 1829-31). The design is simple and appropriate, the centre marked by an Ionic portico, standing on a plain Doric colonnade. The original plan included markets for fish and meat at the western wing, for corn in the centre, and for poultry and vegetables in the eastern wing, with a cattle market in front. But the attempt to remove even a portion of the trade of the island from its central position in Newport has proved abortive, and the Market House has far more room to spare than its projectors anticipated. The Town Hall is over the intended corn market in the centre of the building. It is a well-proportioned room, used for public meetings, concerts, and balls.

The Theatre is an unsightly edifice at the top of Union Street, built by a joint-stock company in 1816 as a Market House; only remarkable as having been the scene of Mrs. Jordan's last appearance on the stage.

The Royal Victoria Arcade (Westmacott, Arch. 1835), on the west side of Union Street, is one of the many unsuccessful attempts to imitate the Burlington Arcade in London, in the hope of realising an equally lucrative return. Its cost was 12,000*l.*; a sum strangely disproportioned to its appearance and capabilities. It contains various shops for the sale of fancy articles, but its aspect is not thriving.

The Yacht Club-House,

which forms a prominent object on approaching from the water, was completed in 1847, the first stone having been laid by the Prince Consort in the previous year. It combines the usual advantages of a London club, to which visitors may be admitted on the introduction of a member. The Yacht Club Regatta, a very gay and lively scene, takes place about the middle of August; the town regatta about a month later.

* Erected at the lavish cost of 4783*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* for the building, and 7799*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* for the approaches, making a total of 12,583*l.* 10*s.*, by which the resources of the town were much crippled, and many important sanitary works delayed.

The Philosophical and Scientific Society, established in 1850, has its library, reading-room, and museum in the premises of the Old National Schools, Melville Street. The museum, though of recent formation, contains many objects of interest, especially the late Dr. Bromfield's Herbarium, and collections illustrative of the natural history and geology of the island, and well deserves a visit. It is open to visitors free of charge.

The Infirmary

is a well-proportioned building, on the road to Ashey, established 12 years since by the exertion of the late Dr. Dodd. It will accommodate 50 patients, and during the year 1857-8 relieved 142 in-patients, and 607 out-patients. Its income was 1255*l.* 11*s.*

The National Schools

were in Melville Street: they have lately been removed to larger and more convenient premises in the upper part of the town. The districts of St. James and Trinity have schools of their own.

The Post Office

is situated at Gibb's Marine Library, in Union Street. The facilities for the despatch and receipt of letters are very great. There are two deliveries in the day, at about 7 A.M. and 4 P.M., and 3 mails out in the day, 6.30 A.M., 9.30 A.M., and 7 P.M.; hours varying, however, with the times of departure of the boats and trains, so that personal inquiry is desirable.

Banks.

There are two branch *Banks* in Ryde—that of the National Provident Bank, and that of the Hampshire Banking Company; both in Union Street.

Bathing.

The smooth level shore renders the sea-bathing very good.* There are also various bathing establishments: *Williams's*,

* In 1805, when the "Beauties of England and Wales" was published, there was *one* bathing machine at Ryde. In 1811 the number had increased to eight.

on the Strand, *Kemp's* on the Esplanade, *Minter's* in Pier Street, where hot and shower baths may be had at any time.

Boats, Carriages, and Steam Vessels.

One of the favourite recreations at Ryde is "*boating*," for which the smoothness of the water and the beauty of the shores present great temptations. There is a perfect fleet of small rowing and sailing boats lying off the pier waiting to be hired; the usual charge for the former is 1*s.* 6*d.*, and for the latter 2*s.* 6*d.* an hour. The usual excursions are round the men-of-war lying at Spithead, round the Nab Light, to Bembridge, Osborne, Cowes, or up the Southampton Water to Netley Abbey.

There is no lack of *carriages* for hire, either for longer or shorter excursions. The local act (which every driver is bound to carry with him, and which may be consulted in case of any dispute) fixes the fares, including the driver's fee, at 1*s.* 6*d.* per mile for less than 2 miles; 1*s.* 6*d.* beyond that distance; or 3*s.* per hour for one-horse carriages; 2*s.*, 1*s.* 6*d.*, and 5*s.*, being the corresponding charges for two-horse carriages. The charge per day is 20*s.* or 32*s.* The fares laid down by the same act for *wheel-chairs* are 1*s.* for any distance not exceeding three quarters of a mile, and 6*d.* for every half mile in proportion thereof beyond: if hired by time, the fares 1*s.* 6*d.* for the first hour, 1*s.* for the second, and in the same proportion for every additional quarter of an hour or fraction thereof, above an hour. A chair hired by distance may be retained by paying 3*d.* for every quarter of an hour or fraction thereof. Two children under 10 to be considered as one fare.

Ryde has not been well supplied with *saddle-horses*; but Mr. Elkins, of the Star Inn, in Upper Ryde, has lately provided the visitors with this additional source of pleasure.

For the times and places at which the coaches start, the *Local Time-Tables*, to be had of the booksellers, should be consulted. *Coaches* and *omnibuses* leave many times in the day for Newport and Ventnor, passing through Sandown, Shanklin, and Bonchurch. The booking-offices are at the Pier and Yelf's Hotel. Oakley and Pescott are *carriers* to

and from all parts; the former in connection with Chaplin and Horne.

Steamers leave the pier-head many times a day for Portsmouth and Gosport, and less frequently for Cowes and Southampton.

Climate, Health, &c.

From its north-eastern exposure, it is evident that Ryde is an unsuitable residence for persons of delicate health during the winter and spring. Its subsoil is clay, and were it not for the steep declivity on which it is built, it would suffer from damp: but the natural drainage is so good, and the recently completed sanitary arrangements for sewerage and water supply so complete, that Ryde is a decidedly healthy place. There are many, however, who find the climate relaxing, and who are affected prejudicially by the variations of temperature between the raw cold of winter and the extreme heat of the summer months.

The town is supplied with delicious water from the foot of Ashey Down. The great sanitary improvements, in connection with this measure, were commenced in 1854, and fully carried out in 1856. The beneficial effects resulting from them may be estimated by the fact that, whereas fever and other epidemics used to be rife in the lower parts of the town, they are now infrequent, and a decrease of more than 50 per cent. has taken place in the diseases most prevalent in dirty, ill-drained districts. Notwithstanding the recent date of these works, the increase of the town already calls for enlarged water supply, and a company is being formed to bring it from Knighton and Alverston. The water-works at Ashey Down are noted in Route 37.

Ryde is well known as a most agreeable place of summer resort: it is also undoubtedly a pleasant place of residence, more so perhaps than most watering-places. It is large enough to afford society suitable to individual tastes, and not so large as to shut out all enjoyment of the country. The shops are fairly good, though prices of all necessaries are high. House rent is expensive. There are excellent schools both for boys and girls.

EXCURSIONS FROM RYDE.**General Remarks.**

The position of Ryde, in the centre of the most wooded district of the island, secures an abundance of pleasant walks and drives within a moderate distance, though the rapid increase of building is fast robbing those in the immediate neighbourhood of their accessibility and beauty. The scenery of this part of the island is neither grand nor markedly picturesque; but there is much beauty and repose in its leafy lanes and rich valleys, with their tiny brooks stealing through the verdant meadows, opening out as they approach the sea into tidal estuaries, fringed to the water's edge with low coppices. The perpetually recurring sea views, now mere glimpses through overhanging boughs—now wide reaches from the brow of a hill—with the animated picture presented by Spithead and Portsmouth in the mid-distance, and the coast beyond, with the Hampshire and Sussex Downs closing the prospect—give a charm to the scene, especially when the setting sun adds its glories to the landscape, which far more striking views often want. There are many pretty *drives* in the vicinity of Ryde, but the pleasantest excursions are only to be commanded by the pedestrian. None of them are beyond an easy walk for the young and strong, while those who are unequal to the distance out and home, may avail themselves of one of the numerous coaches to Newport or Ventnor for a few miles—*e.g.* to Wootton Bridge or Brading—walking back, and exploring the country at their leisure. Those who ensconce their persons in a fly, and sacrifice their liberty to the will of a fly-driver, are not likely to see the spots that are really best worth seeing, where natural beauty still lingers unencroached upon by gentility, and the speculating builder has not yet set his foot.

Route 32. Ryde to Binstead (1½ mile). Quarr (2½ miles), and Wootton Bridge (4 miles).

Binstead — Quarries — Church — Villas — *Quarr Abbey* — History — Princess Cicely — Ruins — *Fishhouse* — Wootton Creek — *Wootton Bridge* — Fern Hill — Lisle Family — Wootton Church — Manor.

This is perhaps the most pleasant of the numerous excursions in the vicinity of Ryde. The same places may be reached by the high road; but it is far better to make the expedition on foot, and, if needful, return by the Newport coach from Wootton Bridge.

Leaving the town by the Spencer Road, we soon reach the lodge of *Ryde House* (Miss Player), where a pretty foot-path strikes off to the right, between copses and hedges, and crossing the little brook which divides the parishes, we soon arrive at

Binstead (1½ mile),

a very picturesque spot. The surface of the ground has been rendered singularly uneven by the working of the superficial beds of freshwater limestone, which have been quarried here at the least from the time of William Rufus, from whom Bishop Walkelyn received a grant of land wherein to dig stone for the rebuilding of his cathedral at Winchester, *circa* 1079. The stone for the restoration of the same cathedral by William of Wykeham, 1366–1404, was also brought from these quarries. “The quarries vary in depth from 10 to 20 feet, and appear to have been opened without regard to any regular plan, wherever it was thought a layer of compact stone could be easily reached. The siliceous limestone, or *rag*, as it is locally termed, being very compact and durable, forms an excellent building material. The upper limestone, composed of comminuted shells held together by sparry calcareous cement, yields stone sufficiently firm for walls, &c. The surface of the blocks in newly-erected buildings often exposes such interesting groups of fossil shells, as to present a strong temptation to the geologist to trespass with his hammer.”* The quarries abound with impressions of fresh-

* Mantell, p. 76.

water shells, but less perfect than those in the beds of the same strata near Calbourne; in the fissures and chasms teeth and bones of mammalia, the *Palæotherium*, *Anoplotherium*, &c. and of turtles have been discovered.

Binstead, the name of which occurs in Doomsday among the possessions of William Fitz-Stur, passed to the bishops of Winchester in consequence of the grant of land for building-stone by Rufus to Walkelyn, and formed part of their manor of *Swainstone*. It is a small parish of 1539 acres, containing only 317 inhabitants in 1851; a decrease of 128 in 10 years. In 1801 the population was 180. *The Church (Holy Cross*, Rev. P. Hewitt, R.; Hellyer, arch.) was rebuilt a few years back in the Early English style. The old church (figured in Tomkins' Tour) was a small plain Norman building, with some singular grotesque sculptures, the most interesting of which have been inserted in the walls of the new church. One, popularly known as the "Idol," and supposed to have been an object of worship with the heathen Saxons, representing a rude human demi-figure supported on a ram's head, has been re-erected, together with the plain Norman door above which it stood, as an entrance gateway to the churchyard. The church, which is a rectory in the gift of the Bishop of Winchester, was served before the Reformation by one of the monks of Quarr; and after the Dissolution, Sir J. Oglander tells us "the abbot's privileges of marrying without license, proving wills, &c. were continued to the rector, who was styled Bishop of Binstead; but this usurped power was taken away by Bilson, Bishop of Winchester, about the year 1600."

Immediately to the north of the church is the villa of Lord Downes, with beautiful gardens sloping down to the sea. Other picturesque villas ornament the neighbourhood. The *rectory* stands to the south between the church and the high road, in grounds remarkable for their beauty and the views of the Solent they present.

Quarr Abbey.

From Binstead a pleasant walk through the low oak copses which fringe the shore, leads to the scanty remains of *Quarr*

Abbey, 2½ miles, till very lately overshadowed by magnificent elms, (now, alas, felled!) almost coeval with the building itself. The Abbey was never wealthy (at the Dissolution its revenue was returned as 181*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*), and its buildings were probably of no great size or grandeur; but there is little left to indicate their style or character; the whole, with the exception of such inferior parts as could be used for agricultural purposes, having been demolished by Mr. Mills, a merchant of Southampton, who purchased the building at the Dissolution, and was a signal example of the ill fortune which has been noticed to attend the occupiers of church lands. His only son died without issue, leaving a buxom widow, “Mrs. Dowsabell Mills,” who lived at *Haseley*, near Arreton, maintaining noble housekeeping, and became the mistress of Sir Edward Horsey, captain of the island, whose monument is a conspicuous ornament of Newport Church. James the First’s mean tool, Chief-Justice Fleming, bought the estate of her representatives, and it continues in his family, though not in the direct line of his descendants, to the present time.

The Abbey, which derived its name from the stone quarries worked here from time immemorial, was founded in 1132, during the lifetime of his father, by *Baldwin de Redvers*, afterwards Earl of Devon and lord of the island. The monks were of the Cistercian order, from Savigny; but though by the rules of their order they were bound to the strictest abstinence, eating no flesh, milk, cheese, or eggs, it appears, by the court-rolls of the manor of Ashe, that they were notorious poachers, and were continually prosecuted for robbing the covers of their pheasants. The founder endowed the Abbey with the manor of Arreton, a district which at that time bore little evidence of its present fertility. But the monks, notwithstanding all that blind prejudice has said to their dispraise, and however much they may have in later ages degenerated from their original self-denying and laborious habits, were the great “improvers” of the Middle Ages; and it is doubtless to the energy displayed by these “farmer-like Cistercians,” in draining the marshes and clearing the woodland, and applying to the

cultivation of their own estates the agricultural skill acquired in Normandy, that the present fertility of the vale of Newchurch, and other districts formerly belonging to the Abbey, is mainly due. The founder and his wife Adeliza were buried in the church, together with many of their descendants, by whose grants the monks soon became rich in land. Hither also the body of the Lady Cicely, second daughter of Edward IV., was brought from Standen, in Arreton, where she lived with her second husband, John Kyme, whom, Fuller says, she had married "rather for comfort than credit." (p. 183.) The abbots of Quarr occupy an important place in the chronicles of the island. In 1340 the then abbot held the office of "Warden of the Island," and had charge of its defences. He obtained a license from Edward III. to fortify the Abbey, and surrounded it with the strong wall (enclosing an area of forty acres), which may still be traced through the greater part of its circuit. The sea-gate was furnished with a portcullis, and the walls were pierced with loopholes. To the west of the Abbey a large circular mound was the post of one of the watches of the island, with a beacon, to be fired in case of apprehended danger. The last abbot was one William Ripon. A curious letter from him to Lord Cromwell is extant in the Record Office, enclosing his "yearly fee of twenty shillings," and promising that if after the Dissolution he would obtain him further preferment, Cromwell should have his share. How he fared in his suit, we know not.

Fuller's "all-eating time" has left but scanty morsels of the monastic buildings "in the dish for manner's sake," nor is it easy to identify the fragments; the task not being facilitated by a farm-house and out-buildings having been formed out of the remains, in a kind of pseudo-Gothic. There is a large barn, the walls of which seem ancient; a part of the jamb of a rich Decorated door of three orders, with a portion of the capitals and bases; and, immediately adjacent, a nookshaft of excellent workmanship, and a segmental arch with good mouldings. Some short distance to the east, the shell of a building remains nearly entire, with three arches at the west end, and a Perpendicular door

with panelling in the jamb, and window to the north. A little stream runs through the building. It is probable that judiciously conducted excavations would bring to light the plan and disposition of the buildings, and enable us to speak more certainly of the destination of those which remain.

Fishbourne.

Continuing our pleasant walk through the leafy glades, we reach *Fishbourne*, at the mouth of the creek of the same name, otherwise called the *Wootton River* (whence at low water the tourist can return by the shore to Ryde). Here, till within the last few years, a considerable number of yachts and other small vessels were built, and in its sheltered inlet they still lay up for the winter. The view from the point, with gnarled oaks dipping their branches into the water, is one of much beauty; and the estuary which runs inland, winding among sloping banks clothed with low oak coppice, is very pleasing at high water, though when empty, like all other tidal creeks, it is little better than a mud swamp. Striking inland, along the course of the creek, we reach *Wootton Bridge*, where it is crossed by an embankment on which stands a mill, worked by the waters of the broad shallow inlet, which gradually narrows to a mere brook as it approaches *Haven Street*. On the brow of the hill on the left, approaching from Ryde, the long, low, ivy-clad front of *Kite Hill* is a picturesque object. On the opposite side of the river, above the bridge, stands *Fernhill*, built by the Hon. T. Orde, afterwards Lord Bolton, when governor; a specimen of Batty Langley Gothic, with a high tower, surrounded with beautiful grounds sloping down to the water's edge.

There is a small inn, *the Sloop*, at Wootton Bridge, which would afford accommodation to any one desirous of exploring the pretty neighbourhood, in which two or three days might be pleasantly spent—rambling now along the shore—now among the green mazes of the copses, to Haven Street, King's Quay, and Whippingham—or taking advantage of the flood-tide to explore the wooded reaches of the Wootton river by boat.

Mounting the hill through the village of Wootton Bridge, a hamlet of the wide parish of Arreton, we see on the right the *Old Rectory* (F. White Popham, Esq.), clothed from base to roof with myrtles, where books, bearing the angler's autograph, and other relics of Izaak Walton, inherited from a former rector, his cousin and namesake, are religiously preserved.

The Lisle Family.

Wootton was long the seat of one of the chief families of the Isle of Wight, who, from the important place they occupied in it, were known as the *De Insulas*, or *Lisles*, called also from their place of residence (*Wood-Town*) *De Bosco*. Probably sprung from one of the *Fitz-Azors*, who appear in Domesday among the largest landholders in the island, by a fortunate marriage in the reign of Henry II. they became possessed of the manors held by the *Esturs* of Gatcombe, and, among other estates, held that of Wootton (which had once belonged to Edward the Confessor's virgin queen, Edith), probably by royal gift. In 1445 the church and manor-house were much injured by fire, but the injury was repaired before 1499, in which year Henry VII. visited the Isle of Wight, and passed the night at Wootton. Two brothers of this family played prominent parts on opposite sides in the great civil struggles of the seventeenth century—Sir John Lisle, one of Charles the First's judges, and afterwards member of Cromwell's House of Lords, and William, who, after suffering great hardships, accompanied Charles II. in his exile, and shared in the triumph of his return. The latter lies buried at Wootton; the regicide was assassinated by two Irish ruffians at Lausanne, where he had taken refuge at the Restoration. The name of his widow, the Lady Alice, is familiar to all from the unrighteous sentence passed on her by the infamous Judge Jefferies for affording refuge to one of Monmouth's adherents, after the battle of Sedgemoor, under which she suffered at Winchester. The family is now extinct in the male line, but is represented through female descent by F. W. Popham, Esq. of Wootton, and Mrs. James White of Bonchurch.

Wootton Church.

Turning to the right at the Old Rectory, we pass the *new rectory*, tall and naked, and reach the long narrow *church* (St. Edmund, Rev. R. H. Scott, *R.*), built by the Lises, as their manorial chapel, in 1050, and retaining of the original building a Norman door with chevron mouldings to the south, and the traces of another to the north, and the nave walls of extraordinary rudeness. The chancel is Early English, with lancet windows. The east and west windows and one to the south are good specimens of Early Decorated. To the north a blocked Early English arch gave entrance to the chapel of St. Edmund the King, which had a separate endowment. There is nothing of interest within; after island fashion there is no chancel arch, and till lately the fittings were as bad as possible; a portion of the unsightly pews have been now replaced by open sittings, an improvement which it is to be hoped will be soon extended to the rest of the church. The pulpit is Jacobean. There is a monumental slab to one of the old family, "Sir William Lisle, Master in Chancery, 1665," as well as to Izaak's Walton's cousin and namesake.

The *Manor-House*, which stood on the site of the present farm-house, was a gabled Jacobean structure, closely resembling those which still remain at Yaverland and Arreton, but considerably smaller. The ancient park was destroyed in 1705. Wootton was not constituted a parish till the reign of Henry III., when it was severed from Whippingham by Walter de Insula, bailiff of the island. It is the smallest in the island except Bonchurch, containing only 524 acres; at the last census its population was only 58, an increase of 20 souls in fifty years. Of these few fully half reside at *Chillerton Farm*, between Gatcombe and Kingston, 7 or 8 miles from the parish church.

A mile to the north-west of Wootton is the pretty wooded inlet of *King's Quay*, to which the walk may be pleasantly extended across the fields. (See next page.)

From Wootton the visitor may return to Ryde either by the high road, or by the pretty lanes which branching off at

Kite Hill, just above Wootton Bridge, traverse *Firestone Copse*, and rejoin the high road at Binstead. Or he may extend the excursion a little to *Aldermoor Mill*, pass *Haylands*, and enter the town by the infirmary. (Wootton to Newport, see Route 34.)

Route 33. Ryde to East Cowes. (7 miles, by 2 routes).

This route is the same with the new road to Newport (Route 34), as far as the Prince-Consort's farm, where it turns to the right, and passing many excellent cottages — pleasing proofs of the solicitude manifested by his Royal Highness for the temporal welfare of his dependents — reaches the church of Whippingham (Route 1).

A much more picturesque route may be pursued from Wootton Bridge by taking the second road to the right, which, after passing *Palmer's Farm*, descends into the wooded inlet of *King's Quay* (described by Professor E. Forbes as "a valley of depression, presenting an upper surface of marls resting on Bembridge limestone"), evidently once an estuary, running, like the Wootton river, far up into the land. The sea has now been shut out by an embankment, and the inconsiderable stream of *Palmer's Brook* winds through marshy meadows bordered with copses, clothing the banks on either side. The view here is very pleasing, especially at high water; and a stroll through *Brock's Copse* on the north-west bank (the limit of her Majesty's domain on this side) to the mouth of the inlet may be safely recommended. The name *King's Quay* has given rise to a tradition, supported by the authority of Roger of Wendover and Grafton, that King John concealed himself here after the signing of *Magna Charta*, "living for three months a solitarie life among ryvers (pirates) and fishermen;" a picturesque story effectually disproved by the itinerary of the monarch, published by Mr. Hardy. An equally groundless tradition derives the name from Charles I. having landed here from Titchfield, after his ill-advised escape from Hampton Court. The name, whencesoever derived, is of modern origin. Long after the reign of Elizabeth it was known as *Shofleet Creek*, and together with *Mead*

Hole, a little to the north, was the principal anchorage in the north of the island, until the rise of Cowes in the reign of Charles I. Early in Elizabeth's reign it was the resort of the pirates or privateersmen, who had at that time converted the Isle of Wight into a nest of robbers.

Leaving King's Quay, the road soon reaches the lodges of the *Barton* domain, and, entering the high road, leaves Whippingham Church on the left, and skirting the royal grounds, of which a high paling conceals nearly all view, descends the hill to East Cowes. (See Route 1.)

Route 34. Ryde to Newport, by Wootton Bridge (7 miles).

The principal objects in this route, as far as Wootton Bridge (3 miles), Binstead, and Quarr Abbey, have been already described in Route 32. The road, which undulates over the steep slopes of the Bembridge marls, capped with drift gravel, is very pleasant, bordered with low oak woods, and commanding striking views of the Solent, the town and harbour of Portsmouth, and the Hampshire hills. Passing the old parsonage of Wootton the road skirts the plantations of *Fernhill*, and crosses Wootton Heath, now enclosed and brought into cultivation, where (on the right) may be noticed the pretty cottage of the late George Brannon, the self-taught artist and indefatigable illustrator of the scenery of his native island. Crossing the head of *Palmer's Brook*, which in its course to the right forms the wooded inlet of *King's Quay*, the road reaches the conspicuous red brick buildings of the Prince-Consort's Farm, and turning to the left proceeds up the valley of the Medina, and passing (to the right) *Fairlee* and the new *Cemetery*, enters Newport by *Coppin's Bridge*, at the foot of the High Street. (For Newport, see Route 10.)

Route 35. Ryde to Newport, by Stapler's Heath and the Old Road.

The former road to Newport went by way of Aldermoor to Haven Street (Route 36), and through *Briddlesford Copse* (where was a chapel dedicated to St. Martin, founded by the Lises) to *Stapler's Heath*, an unproductive ridge of sand

and clay, of whose former sterility the names *Smallgain's Farm* and *Mount Misery* bear evidence. The view from Stapler's is one of the most celebrated in the island; it commands the whole valley of the Medina from Newport to Cowes, the Solent, and the Hampshire coast. The road descends by *Barton's Village*, a suburb of Newport, and, passing *St. Paul's Church* joins the former route (34) at Coppin's Bridge.

Route 36. Ryde to Aldermoor and Haven Street (3 miles).

This walk or drive is much to be recommended, from the wide extent and variety of the views it presents. Leaving the town at the infirmary, and passing *Haylands*, we reach *Aldermoor*, an elevated spot marked by a windmill seen from all the country around, commanding a noble prospect (1½ miles). Turning to the right we arrive at *Copped Hall*, whence there is a wide and pleasing view of the undulating woodland to the right and Ashey Down to the left, with the round summit of Shanklin Down filling up the depression of the ridge; and descending into the valley of the Wootton river, reach the hamlet of *Haven Street* (3 miles), which probably derives its name from its position at the head of the once considerable estuary. Here a neat district church, (St. Peter, Rev. F. Kent, *P.C.*) designed by Mr. Hellyer, has lately been erected. *Beaulieu* (Rev. F. Kent,) lies at the foot of the hill, surrounded by tastefully laid out grounds. You may return by *Ninham* and *Binstead*. Haven Street may also be reached by a footpath to the right, past the infirmary, and through a farmyard to *Dame Anthony's Wood*, 2½ miles.

Route 37. Ryde to Ashey Down (3½ miles). New Church (6 miles), and Ventnor (13 miles).

Smallbrook — Ashey — Cell to Wherwell — Ashey Down — View — Ryde Waterworks — Knighton — Dairyman's Daughter — Sir Tristram Dillington — Hartsash and Kerne — Newchurch — Church — Apse Heath — Princelet — Whetely Bank.

Climbing the hill to the old Upper Town, the road passes the Isle of Wight Infirmary, and turning to the left descends

by *Rosemary Lane* into the long *Smallbrook* valley, along the west side of which it proceeds to *Smallbrook Heath Turnpike*, where a road leads right to *Aldermoor* ($1\frac{1}{2}$ miles), and then to *Haven Street* ($1\frac{1}{2}$ miles), and *Newport*; and left, to the *Brading Road* and *Sea View*. It then crosses *Ashey Common*, now enclosed, and leaving *Whitfield Farm*, and the extensive woodland district of the same name, to the left, soon reaches *Ashey Farm*, the site of a cell belonging to the abbess and nuns of *Wherwell*, near *Andover* (*Wherwell* was founded, A.D. 987, by *Queen Elfrida*, in atonement for the double murder of her husband *Ethelwolf* and her step-son *Edward the Martyr*). The buildings are recorded to have been extensive, including a hall, chapel, and other offices; but there are no remains of them. The manor, on which the monks of *Quarr* used to poach for pheasants, was very large, including *Ryde* (see p. 135). In the reign of *Elizabeth*, a widow named *Agnes Porter* was convicted of witchcraft, and all her possessions forfeited to the lord of the manor, and she herself in all probability burnt.

Ashey Down.

The road now begins to ascend *Ashey Down*, 424 feet above the sea, from which there is one of the finest views in the island; commanding on the one side *Sandown Bay*, *Shanklin*, and the southern range of *Downs*, and on the other *Ryde*, *Spithead*, and the *Solent*, with the ships at anchor, and the opposite coast.

At the foot of the *Downs* are the red brick buildings of the new *Ryde Waterworks*, erected in 1854-5. The supply of water is pumped up by steam-engines, each stroke throwing up $18\frac{1}{2}$ gallons: the reservoir is capable of containing 504,000 gallons: the length of pipes is altogether 14 miles, 539 yards.

After enjoying the prospect from the sea-mark (erected in 1735 by the *Trinity Board*), the tourist takes the road to the right; and again turning to the left, commences the steep descent into the vale of *Newchurch*. Half way down, on the slopes of the lower ridge parallel to the chalk,

into which the "lower greensand" strata rise, is the site of the noble old mansion of

Knighton,

once by far the finest of the Jacobean Manor-Houses of the island, and retaining some fragments of earlier work of different dates. Knighton House — (to distinguish it from Niton, the *K* is usually pronounced as a separate syllable) — was pulled down on the failure of the male line of the Bissets, and nothing remains of the venerable mansion beyond the massy foundations and the terraces which supported its southern part, and some traces of the gardens, where some noble evergreens have attained unusual size. The piers of the gates still mark the entrance, and there is a fragment of the stabling fast mouldering to ruin. The position is very picturesque, and half an hour may be pleasantly spent in rambling about its wooded slopes, and tracking the little stream which, bursting from a copious spring in a dell, turns a mill and joins the Yar below, about which the botanist will find the "Thelypteris," or "Marsh fern," in abundance. Knighton is one of the spots to which Legh Richmond has given an undying interest: it was here that he had his first interview with Elizabeth Walbridge, "the *Dairyman's Daughter*," who was at the time a servant in the establishment. His tract gives a beautiful description of the ancient house and surrounding scenery. Knighton passed in 1256 from the De Morvilles to Sir Ralph de Gorges, whose granddaughter and heiress married Sir Theobald Russel of Yaverland, who fell in the moment of victory over the French invaders in 1340. In 1564 it was bought by the Dillingtons, the last of whom, Sir Tristram, having lost his wife and children in rapid succession, fell into a deep melancholy and committed suicide. A wild local tradition tells that his steward, on the discovery of the deed, to prevent the forfeiture of his estates to the Crown, placed his master's corpse on his favourite horse, and drove him by night into the pool of water below the old house, that it might be believed that he had missed his way in the dark

and had ridden over the steep bank and been accidentally drowned.

At the foot of the hill a roughish road to the left leads by Hartsash and Lower Knighton, through pretty hollow lanes, to *Kern*,—formerly held by the Knights Templars—and *Alverstone* (Route 45). This is a most charming little detour, and will well repay a little loss of time. The views of the quiet combes to the left, and across the Yar valley and the woodland to the Downs on the right, are most lovely. We follow that to the right, which conducts by *Langbridge* to

Newchurch (7 miles),

the mother church of Ryde and Ventnor, long since outstripped in wealth and population by her daughters.

The church stands picturesquely on the brink of a steep wooded bank, rising from the rich meadows of the Yar valley, and is a conspicuous object from every part of the vicinity. The road to the village has been cut through the almost precipitous ridge, and lies deep between high banks of red sand, with the boughs of the trees which clothe them forming an overarching canopy.

The *Church*, (All Saints' Rev. W. Spencer Philips, M.A., V.) a plain cruciform building with a tower at the south-west angle, has little but its size and position to recommend it to notice. The proportions are bad, and the workmanship clumsy. Though one of the most ancient of the island churches, bestowed by William Fitz-Osborne soon after the Conquest on his Abbey of Lire, it bears no marks of extreme antiquity: the earliest portion is the chancel, which still retains its Early English lancets on the north: most of the other windows are late insertions. The nave and aisles, under one heavy tiled roof, are divided by rude arcades of Decorated character, and the transept arches, though large and of several orders, are equally ill fashioned. The tower is of wood on a stone stump. The north transept contains memorials of the Dillingtons of Knighton. The advowson was transferred from Lire to Beaulieu, and at the Dissolution was given by Henry VIII. to his new bishopric of Bristol.

The parish, which forms a narrow strip 13 miles in length, extending from sea to sea, contains 9200 acres; its population, including the towns of Ryde and Ventnor, was 11,459 at the last census; in 1841, 8370; in 1801, 2039; while 20 years before, in 1780, it only reckoned 1505 inhabitants; having thus increased between seven and eight-fold in 60 years.

Passing through the pretty, well-kept street of *Newchurch*, with gay flowers before every cottage door, we enter on the skirts of *Apse Heath*, with its dark fir plantations, with *Queen's Bower* and the *Culvers* to our left, and the South Downs immediately before us; cross the high road from Newport to Sandown, and descend the steep *Princelet Shute*, with its high banks rich in ferns and flowers, and by pretty narrow lanes and rustic farm-houses, with views of the Apshe plantations and Shanklin Down to the left, and Godshill Church high on its round knoll to the right, and join the high road from Newport to Ventnor (Route 22) at *Whetely Bank* (3 miles), where a bridle-path to the left leads most picturesquely to *Cooke's Castle*, and across the Downs to Bonchurch and Ventnor; or by *Apse* and *Cliff* to Shanklin, which may also be reached by an occupation road and bridle-path to the left at Princelet Farm. For Shanklin, see Route 52; Bonchurch, Route 60; Ventnor, Route 61.

Route 38. Ryde to Sea View, St. Helen's, and Brading.

St. John's—Puckpool—Nettleston—Sea View—Church—Old Fort—Landing of French—Watch-house Point—Priory—St. Helen's—Old Church—Spit—History—Brading Haven—Nunwell—Oglander Family.

Traversing what was once the *Dover*, now covered with modern villas, the road crosses the almost invisible brook which divides the parishes of *Newchurch* and *St. Helen's*, and climbs the hill to St. John's turnpike. To the right the new suburb of *St. John's Park* is fast rising into importance, where once beautiful sloping meadows are being fast covered with villas, which bid fair soon to create a new town, exceeding the whole extent of Ryde thirty years since. To

the left the gnarled oaks of *St. John's* still overshadow their swelling banks, spangled in spring with countless primroses. (*St. John's* is the property of the Simeon family ; the house was built by the first Lord Amherst, and commemorates the reduction of " *St. John's* " in New Brunswick ; the grounds were laid out by the celebrated Repton.) Nearer the sea, on the edge of the cliff, here overgrown with a thicket of oak, ash, and hazel, through which a path leads along the water's edge to Spring Vale and Sea View, stands *Appley*, "perhaps the most enchanting of all the spots in this beautiful tract of country" (*Englefield*). The house was built as a residence by a notorious smuggler named David Boyce, a relation of Rich the actor, who used to store his cargoes in its large cellars, as well as in the caves and hollows of the cliffs adjoining. Boyce was at last brought to justice, and died in poverty in 1740.

St. John's Church.

Immediately beyond the turnpike stands the pretty little Early English cruciform church of *St. John's* (Rev. C. J. Garrard, *P.C.* ; Hellyer, Arch., 1843), a district church to the parish of *St. Helen's*. Its position, on a high grassy bank embowered among venerable trees which quite darken the road, is very pleasing ; and its architecture, though open to criticism, is not undeserving of praise. Just beyond the church the road divides ; that to the right leads to *Brading* : we will continue along the left-hand branch, which will lead us past the handsome Elizabethan residence of *Appley Towers* (George Young, Esq.), which will be a real ornament to the neighbourhood when the sea breezes have somewhat sobered the brightness of its fiery red brick ; and leaving on our left *St. Clare*, the castellated residence of Colonel Harcourt, the secluded nook of *Puckpool*, — "a little spot which seems marked by its mild and gentle beauties as the favourite resort of fairies," — and *Spring Vale*, a row of villas erected on the very verge of the sea, cross *Nettlestone Green*, and turning to the left down a steep embowered road, commanding exquisite views of the Solent and the whole anchorage of Portsmouth through thick groves of elm,

reach the pretty little quiet village of *Sea View* (about 3 miles from Ryde).

Sea View.

This, with the adjacent houses of Spring Vale ($\frac{1}{2}$ a mile nearer Ryde), is a very favourite place of resort for those who desire to shun the bustle and gaiety of Ryde, and yet enjoy the lively prospect of the anchorage at Spithead, and the rural walks and drives which render the neighbourhood so inviting. There is a small but well-conducted hotel, and an increasing number of lodging-houses, of fair pretensions and moderate price. A little Early English church, of nave and north aisle, divided by segmental arches in red and yellow brick, has just been erected by Mr. Hellyer, mainly through the exertions of a zealous visitor, which will supply a want that has long been felt by the inhabitants and sojourners at Sea View. The houses of Sea View cluster round a somewhat bold point known as "*Nettlestone Point*" or "*Old Fort*," from a blockhouse that formerly stood here for the defence of the island. The French, on their attempted invasion under D'Annebault in 1545, landed here, and occupied the fort, which had been purposely abandoned by its garrison; but venturing further inland, fell into an ambuscade, and were driven back to their ships with great loss.* The rocks at this point, belonging to the St. Helen's or Osborne series, consist of "freestone or rag, with siliceous concretions passing into a grit. A great part of this bed is made up of comminuted univalves, the fragments smaller and finer below. In the middle portion occur bands of unbroken *Paludina lenta*. Under the flagstaff the shelly limestone, constituting the upper five feet of the bed, is made up almost entirely of *Melania excavata*, with bands of *Paludina lenta*; the whole rising in ripple-marked flaggy siliceous grit. The projection of the land is owing to the protection afforded by the presence of these hard strata at the base of the cliff, and of their ruins, which lie piled up on the shore, against the wearing action of the sea."† In

* See Froude's History of England, vol. iv. p. 427.

† Forbes and Bristow.

addition to its quiet, Sea View possesses an advantage over Ryde in the fine level bed of sand which extends to a considerable distance on each side of the point, firm enough for riding or even driving; so that at a proper state of the tide the distance from Ryde is considerably diminished by taking a carriage across the sands to Spring Vale, instead of going round by the road to Nettlestone. The pedestrian may at all times proceed along the sea-wall skirting Puckpool and St. Clare, a walk of not more than two miles. The coast, which makes a sudden bend to the south beyond the point, towards *St. Helen's* or *Watch-house Point*, is very lovely; the shore curves inwards in two semicircular sweeps, the easternmost known as *Priory Bay*; a low shelving cliff of the freshwater eocene marls and limestones rises in richly wooded slopes, the trees in some instances coming quite down to the water's edge. It is a delightful walk at low water along the shore to *Watch-house Point*, where in former days a watch of ten men by day and four by night was stationed, with a beacon ready to be fired, to guard this exposed corner of the island from the attacks of invaders, the protected anchorage and easy landing rendering this point a favourite place of attack.

On the south of "Old Fort" stands "*the Priory*," the name alone preserving a memorial of a Cluniac foundation which formerly stood here, the history of which is wrapped in such obscurity that we know neither when nor by whom it was founded, nor to which of the French monasteries it belonged. We only know that it was in existence before 1155, and that, in common with the other alien priories, its revenues were seized by Edward III. during his wars with France, and that the rent of it was bestowed by Henry VI. on his newly-founded college of Eton, to which the Priory was subsequently granted by Edward IV., and under which the property is still held. The modern mansion, a perfectly plain structure rebuilt some fifty years back by Sir Nash Grose, Judge of the Court of King's Bench, does not exhibit a trace of antiquity. The grounds, sloping gradually to the wooded cliff, are extensive, and contain some fine timber.

St. Helen's and Brading Haven.

From Sea View the tourist may return to Ryde by several routes; the nearest is by *Westridge* (Mrs. Young, to whom the venerable Haldane Stewart was often a visitor) and the Brading Road. A more extended route leads by *St. Helen's Church* and *Green* to *Brading*, and thence either by the *St. John's Road* (the most direct) or by *Nunwell* and *Greenlanes*, to the *Smallbrook Gate*. Adopting this last route, the traveller will soon reach the mean church of *St. Helen's* (4 miles), (Rev. W. H. Dearsley, *V.*), standing in a corner of a field at the extreme verge of the parish, apparently far removed from any population. The original position of the church of *St. Helen's* was on the "spit" at the entrance of Brading Haven, where it was planted by Hildila, Bishop Wilfrid's chaplain, one of the evangelisers of the island, in order, we are told, to be as near as possible to his native land, and within easy reach of Wilfrid, then Bishop of Selsea, whose counsel must have been often required in the prosecution of his arduous work. The site proved ill-chosen; the sea continually encroached upon the sandy flat, and in the course of centuries reached the foundations of the church itself and so injured its stability, that Elizabeth's commissioners reported that "to the great discredit, not only of the island, but of the whole realm" in the eyes of the foreign sailors who came ashore here for fresh provisions or water, "you might see in at one end and out at the other." "In truth," the report proceeds, "the church hath been ill repaired and worse served since Dr. Coles' provostship (of Eton); in the last two years a priest hath been hired to christen and bury; before which the parishioners *were fain to bury themselves.*" A century later (1656) Cromwell's commissioners reported that "the church is washed by the sea to its foundations; fearing the fall thereof, there have been endeavours to secure it with great charge;" but they recommend that "it be taken down ere it fall, and set up in the midst of the parish." "Church work," says old Fuller, "is slow work;" and it took another three quarters of a century ere the inhabitants obtained a

brief for the erection of a church on the present site, which was consecrated by Bishop Trelawney in 1719. Of this only the chancel remains: the body of the church was rebuilt some thirty years since in a mean, nondescript style.

A short distance to the south of the church, a road, along which some good houses have been erected, leads to *St. Helen's Spit*, at the extreme point of which a fragment of the tower of the old church still bids defiance to the waves. It has been strengthened with brickwork in the most tasteless manner by the Trinity Board, and whitewashed, in order to furnish a conspicuous mark for vessels in the *St. Helen's Roads*; but the west face remains intact, and is an interesting specimen of Early English work. The adjoining "spit" is one of the best botanising fields in the island (see Part III.) and well deserves a visit. The historical associations connected with the spot are interesting.

In 686, Wilfrid, the apostle of Sussex, arrived here with his chaplains Beornwyn and Hildila, to take possession for God of Ceadwalla's grant of the third of the island.

In 1340 the French landed here with an invading force, which was promptly met by the inhabitants and driven back to their ships, though with the loss of their leader, Sir Theobald Russel of Yaverland.

In 1488 Sir Edward Wydville, Captain of the Isle, embarked here with a force of 40 of the gentry and 400 of the stoutest of the commonalty, all clad in white coats, with broad red St. George's crosses upon their backs, to aid the Duke of Brittany against the King of France. The termination of the expedition was most disastrous; the whole force perishing at the battle of St. Aubin, and only one boy surviving to carry home the tale.

In 1545, when the French armada under D'Annebault was riding off the shores of the Wight, the French treasure-ship "*La Maîtresse*" became disabled, and after the removal of her treasure-chest and crew, was towed to the shore at St. Helen's and there deserted.

July 31st, 1655, Charles II. landed here on his way to Sandown Fort.

From St. Helen's Spit there is a *ferry*, but only for foot-

passengers, to *Bembridge*, which, with its neat villas and pretty church, rises on the wooded slopes on the other side of the haven.

Those who have time at command may find it worth while, if the tide serves, to take a boat here, and row or sail up the lake-like sheet of *Brading Haven* (see p. 159), which "to one who has not seen, or can forget a lake among the mountains will, if seen under favourable circumstances, appear of almost unsurpassable beauty: to every one, it must appear very beautiful. The view from the head of the harbour is, especially at sunset, eminently picturesque and striking."*

Returning to the high road, the tourist proceeds along the verge of the Haven, the view of which at high water is very beautiful, though at ebb tide it is a mere oozy swamp; and passes through *St. Helen's Green*, a pretty spot surrounded with rustic cottages, once the main seat of population of the parish before the extension of Ryde within its limits, which has rapidly raised the number of inhabitants, (which in 1795 amounted to no more than 210, in about 40 small houses, and 550 in 1801) to 1373 in 1841, and 1948 in 1851. The parish contains 3676 acres.

The main Ryde road is soon reached, and the tourist can return by *Whitfield Woods* and *St. John's*, or continue to the entrance of the decaying town of *Brading* (Route 40); and leaving the venerable church to the left, enter the green lane which soon brings him to *Nunwell*, the seat of the ancient family of *Oglander*. The progenitor of the stock was Richard de Oglandres, or Okeland, of Caen, who followed William the Conqueror as one of his marshals, and accompanying Fitz-Osborne in his expedition for the reduction of the Isle of Wight, obtained a grant of the estate, which has been held in uninterrupted succession by his descendants for nearly eight centuries. The Château d'Oglandres or d'Orglandes, which was the original home of the family, stood at Valognes, in the Cotentin, and was held by Henry I., when prince, against his brothers Robert and

* "Land we Live in," 260.

William. The Oglanders have ever been among the leading inhabitants of the island, in whose annals their names are continually appearing; but none is more identified with them than Sir John Oglander, whose staunch loyalty was a principal inducement for the choice of the Isle of Wight by Charles I. as his place of refuge, and who was the last subject honoured by a royal visit, Thursday, Nov. 19, 1647, four days after his arrival at Carisbrook. As was to be expected, his fidelity to his sovereign cost him dear, and he was confined many years in London by the Committee, and obliged to pay a large sum to obtain his discharge. The house is modern and quite unworthy of its fine situation, or the ancient family of which it is the seat: the park is a beautifully undulating tract, too much cut up with fences, lying immediately beneath the Chalk Downs: some of the trees are noble veterans, carefully guarded against further decay. From the park we emerge into the *Green Lanes*, and enter the Ryde and Ashey road (see Route 37), and return by Smallbrook Gate.

Route 39. Ryde to St. Helen's and Sea View, by various Lanes and Paths.

The road to the left, at Smallbrook Gate, leads by pleasant lanes to Westridge and Nettleston; but the pedestrian, as usual, has the advantage, there being an abundance of pretty footpaths, to the east of Ryde, leading towards Brading, St. Helen's, and Sea View. Every turn will lead him by some new path, and bring him round at pleasure by longer or shorter walks.

Route 40. Ryde to Brading (4 miles) and Sandown (6 miles).

Whitfield—Princess Mary—Approach to Brading—Brading—Archbishop Wilfrid—Church—Monuments—Sir J. Oglander—Legh Richmond—"Young Cottager"—Epitaphs—Corporation—Town Hall—Gun—Haven—Attempts at Drainage—Town—Bull Ring—Yarbridge—Landing of French.

No road in the island is traversed by so large a number of carriages, or witnesses the transit of such a crowd of

tourists as this, which connects the favourite landing-place of Ryde with the celebrated localities of Shanklin, Bonchurch, and the Undercliff.

Leaving Ryde by *St. John's*, as in Route 38, the road crosses an undulating tract with the noble Chalk ridge and Ashey Seamark full in front, and soon enters on the woodland district of Whitfield, (the site of a manor given by Edward I., together with Freshwater and other lands, to his daughter Mary, a nun at Ambresbury, whose unsaintly extravagance and love of pomp, good cheer, and gambling, had involved her in considerable pecuniary embarrassments,) carpeted in spring with primroses, wood anemones, and hyacinths, and vocal with nightingales.

As we approach Brading, the road is shaded by avenues of hedgerow elms, between which we catch glimpses of the broad sheet of *Brading Haven* and the swelling ridge of *Bembridge Down*, with the Obelisk erected by the Yacht Squadron to commemorate their late Commodore, Lord Yarborough. Just before entering the town, the traveller should be on the watch for a lovely view of the grey church spire, beneath an arch of foliage. *Nunwell* is seen to the right, surrounded with venerable timber, which continues quite to the entrance of the decayed town of

Brading,

one of the oldest historic sites of the island. Its name, signifying the "Broad Meadow," may perhaps point to a time when the adjoining haven was a wide expanse of rich pasturage. Kemble would place here an Anglo-Saxon "mark," that of the Bradingas. Reference has been already made to the introduction of Christianity into the Isle by Wilfrid, Bishop of Selsea, to whom a fourth part had been granted after its conquest by Ceadwalla, A.D. 686; and a well-supported and probable tradition points out this as the centre from which the evangelists left in the island by the good bishop extended their efforts for the civilisation and conversion of the heathen Jutes. Wilfrid was accompanied by his nephew Beornwin, and his chaplain Hildila, of whom the latter planted himself at St. Helen's,

the former at Brading, where, it is said, the first Christian church in the island was erected; probably, in accordance with the policy recommended by Pope Gregory (*Bede*, H. E. i. 30), on a spot already consecrated by the religious rites of the natives. Gigantic bones dug up in the churchyard seem to mark it out as a cemetery of the men of ancient days.

Church.

The present Church of Brading, (St. Mary, Rev. Dunbar I. Heath, *V.*) is a grey venerable building at the north end of the picturesque old town which straggles down the side of the low ridge of chalk on which it stands, and up the opposite slope. There may be relics of the original building in its walls, but the Church, as we see it, is of Henry the Second's time; a large plain building of Transition-Norman character, with pointed arches rising from rude cylindrical piers. At the west end stands a very good Early English tower, crowned with a stone spire, the base opening with arches on three sides as a porch, above which is a small niche of later date, once doubtless enshrining some sacred sculpture. It contains some interesting monuments, especially that of *Sir John Cherowin*, (or Curwen,) Constable of Porchester Castle, *ob.* 1441; one of the best of the few incised slabs to be found in England. "It appears to have been designed by a Flemish artist; the canopy comprises a series of figures (of the Blessed Virgin and Infant Saviour, and the Twelve Apostles) in niches and rich tabernacle work; the principal effigy is armed in plate, with a gorget of mail; and a skirt or fringe of mail appears beneath the lowermost tace, from the centre of which also depends a single tuille; pauldrons defend the shoulders; the spurs are of extravagant length; the sword is girded in front of the wearer after a very unusual fashion, and the head is unhelmed. The head, hand, and sword-hilt, appear to have been worked in low relief, and inserted in matrices sunk in the slab, the incised lines being filled with some hard black compound."*

* Boutell, "Monumental Brasses."

At the east end of the north aisle, now used as a vestry, are two rich but clumsy altar tombs, bearing very rude inscriptions. "JHU have merci on Wylyam Howlys Sowl. Amen. mcccccx. Helizabeth hys Wyf."

The east end of the south aisle is the Oglander Chapel, containing some interesting tombs and effigies: one to the left, with rude kneeling effigies, is too much mutilated to be identified; on the opposite side is a full-sized wooden effigy of Sir William Oglander (died 1608,) in full armour, with his hands clasped in prayer; facing which, to the north, is an effigy also of wood and in full armour, of the loyal Sir John Oglander, (died 1655), above which is a small figure after the same model, of his eldest son George, who died at Caen in 1652—expatriated for his attachment to his sovereign.

It was in this Church that on Sunday morning, November 15th, 1647, Sir J. Oglander heard the first report of the arrival of Charles I. "which news," he says, "truly troubled me very much." The next morning at daybreak saw him on his way to Newport to offer his homage to Charles, who on the following Thursday, as we have seen, honoured him by an unexpected visit at Nunwell, and the acceptance of a purse of gold.

In later times Brading has acquired considerable celebrity from the beautiful narratives of the Rev. Legh Richmond, who was curate of this parish,—where, to use his own words, he "first proclaimed the message of God to sinners"—with Yaverland, from July 1797, to June 1805. His tales of the "*Young Cottager*," the "*Dairyman's Daughter*," and the "*Negro Servant*," are connected with this period in his useful life; and we would refer the tourist to them for many eloquent, though too florid descriptions of Brading, Yaverland, Shanklin, and much of the neighbouring country. The epitaph to Mrs. Berry, beginning,

"Forgive, blest shade, the tributary tear,"

which Dr. Calcott's music has rendered so familiar, and which first introduced "Little Jane" to the notice of Mr. Richmond, is on a gravestone to the east of the Church.

Immediately under the east window is that of the "Young Cottager" herself. The epitaph to Mrs. Berry, as well as that to her husband, which with some others deserve notice, were from the pen of the Rev. John Gill, curate of New Church. The organ of Brading Church is a lasting memorial of Mr. Richmond's love for sacred music.

The advowson of Brading, which had been a fruitful subject for legal disputes among various monastic bodies, was granted at the Dissolution to Henry Courtney, Marquis of Exeter, on whose attainder it was given by Henry VIII. to his new foundation of Trinity College, Cambridge, to whom it still belongs. The present incumbent is the Rev. Dunbar I. Heath, of considerable repute as a student of Egyptian antiquities, and decipherer of papyri.

The Town.

Though once of sufficient importance to return a representative to parliament—a privilege of which the inhabitants, finding the charge of fourpence a day, then paid to members, too heavy a burden, were relieved on their own petition—and still boasting of a tiny corporation consisting of two "bailiffs" and as many "justices," two constables and a hayward, the last having "*the management of the pound*," with a revenue of 6*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*; with the privilege of holding two fairs, and a weekly market—the whole aspect of the "Kyng's Towne of Bradyng" is depressing, with ruinous houses, evidently too large for their present occupants, and poor ill-furnished shops. Without any very decided marks of antiquity, beyond a few half-timbered houses—some with iron rings under their eaves, as if for hanging tapestry, after the Italian fashion on festivals—the town belongs to the past, and its dull old world character contrasts strongly with the bright new towns which have sprung up around it.

The tourist will notice the *Town Hall* (to the south of the Church), a small half-timbered building on an open brick arcade, once the site of the weekly market, now affording shelter to the stocks, and the idle boys who sport

about the once dreaded instrument of punishment, careless of its terrors; and the *Bull-Ring*, a massive ring of iron firmly fixed in the ground in an open place to the right, half-way up the hill, telling of the time when the brutal custom of "bull-baiting" was our forefathers' favourite amusement. Another relic of antiquity is the *Brass Gun*, the only survivor of the pieces of ordnance provided by the parishes of the island in the days of Edward VI. for its defence from invaders, bearing the inscription, "John and Robert Owine brethren made this Pese 1549, Brerdynd." The last time its brazen mouth spoke was at the passing of the "Reform Bill," when the townspeople dragged it to the top of the Down to aid their rejoicings; but the old gun proved a staunch Tory, and signified its disapprobation of the whole proceeding by bursting.

Brading parish was perhaps originally commensurate with Ceadwalla's grant to Wilfrid; and though the parishes of Bonchurch, Shanklin, and Yaverland, and perhaps St. Helen's, have been taken out of it, it still contains 7550 acres; the population, including the ecclesiastical districts of Bembridge and Sandown, was 1537 in 1801; 2701 in 1841; and at the last census 3046.

Few tourists think of spending any time at Brading, but those who wish to be entirely removed from the bustle of the fashionable watering-places, and to explore the neighbourhood, which is varied and beautiful, with the great advantage of the immediate proximity of the glorious Downs, will find humble but comfortable accommodation at the *Buyle*. Lodgings are to be had in several of the newly-erected houses at the Sandown end of the town, commanding a fine view of the harbour.

Brading Haven.

The *Haven* is a broad tidal basin of 800 acres to the east of the town, presenting two widely different aspects if seen at high water, when it resembles a noble lake embayed in hills, or at ebb tide, when it presents nothing but vast beds of mud covered with slimy weeds, through which an insignificant stream winds its way to the sea. Tradition tells

that where ships now sail were once wide green pastures with milk-white flocks and lowing herds, and that its submersion is due to the wilful neglect of the fatal terms on which an immense treasure which had been concealed in a well and discovered by sorcery, was to be drawn from its hiding-place. The story is well told in the "Land we Live in," to which the curious reader may be referred.

Various attempts have been made from time to time for the recovery of so large a tract of land with more or less success, and large portions have been effectually rescued, and form an expanse of rich level pasturage. In the reign of James I., Gibbs, a groom of the king's bedchamber, obtained a grant of the Haven, which he disposed of to Sir Bevis Thelwall, who taking into his counsels the well-known Sir Hugh Middleton, whose engineering skill had proved so successful in bringing the "New River" to London (whose grandson and namesake subsequently married Dorothy, grand-daughter of Sir John Oglander), employed a body of Dutchmen to carry out the design of banking out the sea and laying the whole estuary dry. Seven thousand pounds was expended, and a large tract recovered, but the soil proved "a light running sand," hardly worth cultivating, and before very long the whole enterprise came to a disastrous issue. "In a wet season, when the inner part of the Haven was full of fresh water, and there was a high spring tide, the waters met under the bank, and made a breach," and the whole was again overflowed by the sea. In 1699 the scheme was renewed but proved abortive, and the Haven still remains in its unproductive state, though Vancouver (Survey of Agriculture, 1808) expresses his opinion that "500 acres might be embanked with great advantage."

Passing up the decaying street, the tourist takes the new road to the left, which avoids the once formidable shute, and passes through the gap between Brading and Bembridge Downs, looking down upon green meadows, through which the Yar winds like a silver ribbon. On the left the road to Yaverland and Bembridge crosses Yar Bridge, (a favourite spot with anglers, where is a comfortable little inn, the

"Anglers' Arms,") built by Sir W. Russell of Yaverland, and broken down by the English forces in 1545, as they retreated before the French invaders, to whom they had previously given a most severe handling (see p. 170). High on the right a gaunt dissenting chapel stands conspicuously. The road soon enters on the alluvial flats of the Sandown Marshes, and crossing the Yar, reaches the popular little town of Sandown.

CHAPTER IV.

SANDOWN.

Route 41. Sandown.

42. Sandown to Yaverland, Culver Cliffs, and Bembridge. Two geological trips to Sandown Bay, Redcliff, Whitecliff Bay, and St. Helen's.
43. " Redcliff Bay, by shore, cliff, and boat.
44. " Whitecliff Bay and St. Helen's, by boat.
45. " Adgeton, Alverstun, and Queen Bower.
46. " Black Pan Common, and Borthwood.
47. " Merry Garden, Ninham, America, Apse, Cliff, Hide, and Languard.
48. " Arreton, and the Downs.
49. " Shanklin, by the shore.
50. " " by the cliff.
51. " " by road.

Route 41. Sandown.

Rise — Position — Advantages — Hotels — Church — Schools — Parsonage — Fort — Barracks — Wilkes's Cottage — Bathing — Boats — Conveyances.

SANDOWN presents an instance of rapid growth almost as striking as Ventnor or Ryde. This bright and cheerful little watering-place, which is every year rapidly rising in public favour, furnished with excellent hotels, lodging-houses, and all the conveniences of a place of popular resort, not more than sixteen or seventeen years ago was a mere

cluster of fishermen's cottages, with a single small roadside inn, and about half-a-dozen houses in which humble lodgings might be obtained. The barracks were untenanted by soldiers, and occupied partly as a shop, partly by cottagers. The fort, though still boasting a governor, was under the care of a pensioned gunner. Looking back a few years further, its pretensions were still smaller: if the tourist examines the "Ordnance map" (dated in 1810), he will observe no such place as "*Sandown*" marked upon it. "*Sandham Fort*," "*Sandham Cottage*," (Wilkes's *Villakin*) and the "*Barracks*," are the only buildings indicated, while the site of the present town appears under the designation of "*Royal Heath*," then a common, as rough and uncultivated as "*Pan Common*" is now, overgrown with gorse, and feeding a few sheep on its scanty herbage.

The erection of the church in 1845 must certainly be regarded as having given one of the chief impulses to the rise of Sandown; which has from that date continued to increase in so remarkable a manner that land which could have been purchased twelve or thirteen years ago for 5*l.* an acre, is now worth four times that amount. The local advantages of the place are also very great: its convenient distance from Ryde; the ready access to the sea, contrasting so favourably with the steep hills of Bonchurch and Ventnor; its fine and extensive sands, presenting such delightful facilities for bathers, and such a safe and healthy playground for children; its pure and invigorating air, together with its dry sandrock subsoil, and warm southerly exposure, have all contributed to its rapid growth and steady progress, and increasing popularity. At the present time the inhabitants are seeking to place it under the Local Government Act, constituting it into a town with powers of self-taxation for local purposes: a measure which, under able superintendence, is likely to contribute largely to the improvement and popularity of the place.

The population of the whole district (including Lake, Gatton, America, and Borthwood) in 1841 was about 700. In 1851 it had risen to 1030, and is now estimated at 1500, exclusive of visitors.

Sandown is situated towards the northern extremity of the beautiful bay formed by the *Culver Cliffs* to the north, and the dull brown headland of *Dunmose* to the south. The buildings commence immediately to the south of the Fort, which stands on the low wealden strata very little above the sea level, and running along the edge of the cliff as it gradually rises to the height of 150 feet, form an almost continuous street of hotels, lodging-houses, villas, and shops, of half a mile in length. The ground between this cliff-road and the main road between Ryde and Shanklin has been laid out for building, and the erection of villas has commenced. Happily there are no natural beauties to spoil, as at Bonchurch and Ventnor; and one can see the busy preparations for the architect and builder with more complacency than where the erection of every new house causes the destruction of some lovely nook, or the uprooting of some picturesque rock, with all its rich garniture of ivy, and moss, and fern.

It must be borne in mind that Sandown is eminently a summer resort. It has no protection from the east wind, and is but poorly sheltered from the south-west, both of which rage here at times with no small fury. The invalid, therefore, however great the benefit he may derive from a sojourn here during the summer and autumn months, will do well to move to a more sheltered locality before the approach of winter. To those who, happily, have no such reason for caution in the selection of their winter habitation, Sandown affords many inducements for a permanent residence; and we shall not be surprised if, when the projected railway brings it within half a day's journey of London, many families will be found to settle here, and enjoy the unrivalled facilities offered for bathing, boating, and every description of seaside recreation.

Hotels, &c.

The hotels are, *Hale's* (near the Fort), which bears a high character; the *Star and Garter*, and the *King's Head*, (the old wayside public-house close on the shore, which has of late freshened itself up, and added a handsome new

wing, bearing a cast of the head of Charles I. as sign, the better to compete with its younger but more aspiring neighbours). There are no regular boarding houses; but families are taken in to board at the hotels on moderate terms. Lodgings are plentiful and good, varying greatly in price, according to size and situation. House agents are — Mr. B. Mearman, Mr. Higgs, and Mrs. Lankford.

Sandown is not well provided with water: most of that which is used is brought in carts from the Yar: the wells are few, and but scantily supplied. Provisions, as in the island generally, are not cheap, and during the season there is sometimes a difficulty in getting well served. This, however, is an evil which is fast correcting itself.

Church.

Sandown is a district of the wide-spread parish of Brading. A district church seating 450 was erected from the designs of Mr. Woodman, on ground given by Sir W. Oglander, at an expense of 2600*l.*, raised mainly by the exertions of the present incumbent, the Rev. W. Thomas, then curate of Brading, who had some time previously instituted a service in a large room at the barracks. The position of the church is against precedent, the altar standing to the north, but it is a pleasing specimen of an unpretending Early English building, consisting of a nave, aisle, and chancel, with a small tower and broach spire attached. The interior, though plain, would deserve much commendation were not its effect injured by the smallness and narrowness of the chancel, which is unworthy of the building. The parsonage stands to the south, on the brow of the hill overlooking Lake.

Adjoining the church are noble *schools*, lately erected by the exertions of the inhabitants. They reflect great credit on the zeal and energy which have surmounted all difficulties, and conferred a great and lasting benefit on the place.

There are four *Dissenting Chapels* of different denominations in Sandown, besides three others in the ecclesiastical district.

The Fort.

Sandown Fort was one of the blockhouses erected by Henry VIII., between 1537 and 1540, along the southern coast (see p. 25).

The original establishment consisted of a captain, lieutenant, 13 soldiers, a porter, master gunner, and 7 gunners. It was a quadrangular building with towers at the angles: in 1547, it was found provided with "11 pieces of brass and iron ordnance, 605 shot of various sorts and sizes, with 12 hollow shots for powder, 78 hagbutts, a chest of bows and another of arrows, 150 pikes, and 120 bills."

The site of the original fort has for the last 150 years been covered by the sea, which has swallowed up hundreds of acres along the soft and crumbling coast of Sandown Bay. The waves had made such inroads upon the land within a hundred years after the building of the fort, that in the reign of Charles I. A.D. 1632, it was taken down, and the present fort erected by Lord Conway, then governor of the island, from the designs of Rudd and Heath, two very able engineers, who had been employed by the Dutch in the erection and repair of their fortifications, and had lately constructed the fort at Harwich. The site chosen by the engineers was then eighty feet from the beach, a distance which has been much lessened by the encroachments of the sea, which is with difficulty prevented from undermining the foundations, and destroying it a second time. Sir John Oglander and Sir John Dennis, who were appointed to superintend its erection, were very urgent that it should be placed much further inland: but their superior local knowledge was disregarded by the engineers, who, in spite of their remonstrances, placed the fort in its present insecure position. The existing building is quadrangular, with a bastion at each angle, and is surrounded by a wet fosse. The entrance is to the west; within is a small court with barracks for the men on either side, and the governor's house in front: one of the rooms of the latter contains a panel ornamented with the armorial bearings

of Richard, Earl of Portland, governor of the island after Lord Conway, 1631-34. In 1664, Lord Culpepper, governor of the island, committed to this fort Arthur Legg, mayor of Newport, for speaking ill of Charles II., who had visited Sandown in person, July 31, 1655. During the American war the fort was attacked by privateers, but without success. Governors of this fort were regularly appointed from the period of its erection until recently: but less and less importance was by degrees attached to it, until on the death of the last governor, Sir W. Wynn, the office fell into abeyance.

In 1831, (Aug. 24), a short time after the government had spent upwards of 3000*l.* in the erection of groynes to protect it, the fort was advertised to be sold at the Auction Mart. The sale, however, did not take effect, and the fort still stands, though not in a condition to oppose much resistance to an invading force.

The Barracks were erected at a period when the country was living in constant dread of invasion, and at the same time the coast of the bay was put in a position of defence. In addition to the fort, then in an efficient state, there were two small guard-houses for fifteen men on either side, the guard being relieved daily from the barracks. Other guard-houses were erected at Whitecliff Bay, and along the coast at Bembridge and St. Helen's. Large guns were also placed at intervals along the lower part of the shore, near the fort. The existing barracks are only a portion of those originally erected: ranges of buildings of greater extent than those still standing were situated between them and the fort. They were pulled down when the dread of invasion had passed away, and peace had been finally restored.

Wilkes's Cottage.

Although the cottage which first made Sandown famous has been lately swept away by the march of so-called improvement, utterly regardless of the historical interest attaching to the spot, it would be unpardonable to omit all mention of the "Villakin" of the once notorious *John Wilkes*. It was in 1788, after the fires of the "North

Briton" had died out, that the weary old demagogue settled on the "Royal Heath," and found the amusement of his declining years in adorning his cottage, and laying out the surrounding grounds; in which he erected pavilions formed of floor-cloth at the points commanding the best views, and set up a classical memorial to his worthless friend Churchill, (the infamous clerical satirist, immortalised by Hogarth's damning pencil), the base of which contained a store of his choicest wines. Wilkes's last visit to the Isle of Wight was in the summer of 1797; at the close of which year he died in London, bequeathing the "villakin" to a natural daughter.

Some of the villas which have been recently erected along the cliff, nestling in their low plantations, exhibit excellent taste, and are a real ornament to the situation. Lodgings are plentiful and good.

The *bathing* is excellent at all states of the tide. There are also *hot* and *cold baths* at Boyce's establishment, near the hotel.

Boats, either for sailing or rowing, are let by the hour or the day, by Mr. Boyce, Mr. Hayden, and Mr. Blew.

Conveyances.

The coaches from Ryde to Ventnor pass through Sandown many times a day during the summer. A van runs to Newport on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, at 9 A.M.

Flies are to be hired at the hotels, Mr. Walkyer's, and elsewhere.

EXCURSIONS FROM SANDOWN.

Route 42. Sandown to Yaverland (1 mile) Bembridge (4 miles).

Leaving Sandown by the coast road, we soon pass the weedy ditch of the dismantled *Fort*. The shore is here protected with groynes and breakwater, with the view of hindering the further encroachments of the sea, which has swallowed up so much ground; but they are evidently insufficient for their purpose, and the whole seem doomed, at

some distant day, to share the fate of Henry the Eighth's Blockhouse, the site of which now forms part of the bed of the ocean. Proceeding onwards, the road skirts the low Sandown marshes, where the river Yar approaches so close to the sea as to indicate that it once had its outlet here, making the "Isle of Bembridge," as it was formerly called, an isle in reality. Some thirty years since, the frail barrier which protects these marshes from the sea was thrown down in a violent storm, and the whole for a time converted into a salt-water lake, the waves bringing with them thousands of tons of pebbles, which it cost no small amount of labour to remove on the subsidence of the waters. As the peninsula projects, the road soon deserts the sea (a foot-path continues along the cliffs from *Catches Corner*), and begins to climb the hill, skirted with the grey thatched cottages of the little village of

Yaverland,

the population of which has been steadily decreasing for the last fifty years, and was only 78 at the last census, having been 80 in 1841, and 90 in 1801. The parish contains 765 acres. As we advance we pass up a hollow lane, cut through the ferruginous sand, the richly-tinted banks draped with hart's tongue and polypody, and overshadowed by the shrubs and trees of the neat Parsonage above, and soon come in sight of the broad gables of the fine old manor-house, and the little church (Rev. R. Sherson, *R.*), dwarfed into insignificance by its aspiring neighbour. This is a favourite scene for the pencil of the artist, and there are few prettier pictures than the tiny grey sanctuary, rising from its neatly-kept green knoll, reposing beneath the shade of noble elms, and sheltered from the rude eastern blast by the massive walls of the stately manor-house. The scene is well described by the graphic pen of Legh Richmond, who made his first unsuccessful attempt at extempore preaching, in which he afterwards so much excelled, in this little church.

The Church bears unmistakeable marks of Norman origin. The south doorway and chancel arch are very fine specimens

of the barbaric richness of this style, and well deserve examination. It has been doubted whether they occupy their original position, or were removed from some other building and re-erected, when, in the reign of Edward I., Sir Wm. Russell obtained the bishop's permission to establish a chapel here for the convenience of his family and tenants, who had been forced previously to attend the mother church at Brading, which was often inaccessible during floods, neither Yarbridge nor the causeway having been built.

The Manor-House occupies the site of the seat of the Russells (the progenitors of the noble family of Bedford), who were the Lords of Yaverland from the days of Edward I. to those of Mary. The present building, inhabited by the farmer of the estate, erected in 1620 by Gervais Richards, whose family had purchased the manor of the Russells, is a good specimen of plain Jacobean work, with projecting wings, and large square-headed mullioned windows, containing almost as much stone as glass. Within, the hall and staircase show some grotesque wood-carvings, which merit examination. The inner door-case is flanked by caryatid figures (popularly known as *Nero* and *Cleopatra*); and other monstrous conceptions of the carver, in the shape of Moors' heads with wings, some playing on musical instruments, some as brackets to support the ceiling of the staircase.

Bembridge Down.

The road to Bembridge (3 miles) climbs a shoulder of the noble Chalk Down (the eastern extremity of the central range), the summit of which is reached by a roughish cart-track, leading to the granite *Obelisk*, 70 feet high, erected by the members of the Yacht Club in 1849, to commemorate their founder and sometime commander, the late Lord Yarborough. The view from this point is one of the finest in the island, especially at high water, when Brading Haven forms an object of great beauty in the foreground. To the north, the eye looks over the gently swelling ground of St. Helen's and Sea View to Ryde and the woodland tract

which occupies this corner of the island ; and then glancing over the Solent, with its noble ships, commands the harbour of Portsmouth, Hayling Island, and the line of the Hampshire and Sussex Coast, where the slender spire of Chichester may be seen pointing heavenwards, while the coast terminates in the blue haze which marks the position of Beachy Head. To the south, we gaze on the noble sweep of Sandown Bay, with its red loamy cliffs, alternately rising and sinking, until they tower up in the gigantic mass of Dunmore and Shanklin Down. To the west, the eye commands a wide view of the central greensand valley, with its frequent undulations and isolated knolls, dotted over with half-concealed hamlets and scattered homesteads, peeping out from the encircling elms. At our feet the Yar winds its sinuous way to Brading Haven. The little town of Brading, dignified by its venerable church, clustering round the upper part of the Haven, on one side, and Sandown, with its bright hotels and villas on the other,—one the erection of yesterday, the other telling of the days when Wilfrid preached to the heathen Jutes, 1200 years since—together with the pretty villages of St. Helen's and Bembridge, give life and animation to the prospect.

Bembridge Down is of interest historically as the scene of one of the rebuffs met with by the French, in the great but fruitless expedition commanded by D'Annebault in 1545. As ably narrated by Mr. Froude*, they landed three detachments to plunder the Isle of Wight, with the view of drawing the English fleet out of their safe quarters at Portsmouth, by the sight of the property of their countrymen in flames. Of these, the most considerable came on shore either at Bembridge or Sandown, where they were immediately charged by a body of cavalry, who gaining the advantage, the soldiers in the nearest ships seized the boats and went off without their officers, to succour their fellows. On this, the English withdrew to the Down, and the French straggled loosely after them, till on reaching the steep slopes they were charged with fatal effect,

* Hist. of England, iv. 426.

and pursued down the heights; the islanders using their swords with such tremendous vigour that scarce one would have been left alive had not considerable reinforcements been sent in from the ships, on which the English, being hard pressed in their turn, withdrew, fighting as they retreated, till they reached Yar Bridge, which they crossed, breaking it down behind them.

From Lord Yarborough's Monument the pedestrian may continue his walk along the Downs in the direction of Bembridge, and descend to

White Cliff Bay

by a steep path which winds down among the ferns and brushwood which here cover the face of the clay cliff, and conceal its junction with the chalk. Few localities are more interesting to the geologist, who here sees the almost vertical crustaceous formation in close proximity with the tertiary or eocene beds, while the picturesque beauty of the scenery offers no small attraction to the ordinary tourist. White-Cliff Bay may be also reached by the shore from Bembridge at ebb tide; but the walk is rough and wearisome, and the best mode of visiting the place is by boat from Sandown (see p. 174), which also affords the only opportunity of seeing to advantage the noble chalk headland known as the

Culver Cliffs.

These cliffs form the eastern escarpment of the central range of chalk, which terminates in the Freshwater Cliffs to the west. "The dip of the beds is about 70° to the north, and is well defined even from a distance, by the layers of flints, which give the cliffs a singularly striped appearance." * "The chalk rises directly out of the sea, very nearly perpendicular, to a great height; and being totally in shadow when opposed to the blue sky above, and the pellucid green of the sea at its foot, it has a sort of ærial tint which looks as it were semi-transparent; while here and there a projecting sharp point of the terminating edge of the cliff catching the sunshine, is of a whiteness so resplendent that it seems to sparkle by its own native light." †

* Mantell.

† Englefield.

At the west end of the cliffs, about thirty feet below the summit, is a cavern called the *Hermit's Hole*, penetrating about twenty feet into the rock. The path leading from the down above is so steep rugged and narrow, that, though the danger is absurdly overrated by former writers, we cannot recommend any but those who are well used to scrambling on cliffs or mountain-sides to venture down, especially as there is nothing in the cave itself to compensate for the risk; though the singular beauty of the view of the bay from its darksome recess may repay those whose heads are steady enough to make the attempt.

The name Culver has been derived from the time of Pennant, from the old English name for the dove, and writers tell you that "pigeons build in the cliffs, and are exceedingly numerous." But if this ever were the case, the birds have long since deserted the spot, and it is probable that some other derivation is to be sought for the name.

From Yaverland a tortuous road, now climbing the hill-side, now descending to the alluvial flats, now winding its way among farms and copses, leads to the little village of Bembridge. Below the road to the left, on the shore of the Haven, is *Centurion's Copse*, preserving in its name a trace of the existence of the chapel of St. Urian, built by the Lords of the adjacent manor of Woolverton (Wulfheres Town,) of which some shapeless ruins are said still to exist half hid in the brushwood. Beyond this the road traverses *Steyn Wood*, blue in the spring with the bells of the *Lungwort*, and soon reaches

Bembridge,

which only needs an easier access to become one of the most favourite resorts in the island. Till within the last 30 years it was a straggling secluded village, which seldom tempted a tourist to diverge from his route; but about 1826 a gentleman named Wise, who possessed some property in the neighbourhood, gave an impulse to building, the roads were widened, the ferry was improved, the church erected, and Bembridge began to take rank among the many agreeable candidates for popular favour in the island. Hitherto, however, its success has not been great; the horse-boat

across the ferry is disabled, the hotel is closed, and the lodgings are few, and being out of the way of summer visitors, it is often overlooked. Still, to those who wish to enjoy retirement as well as pure sea air, unrivalled prospects, and pleasant and varied walks, Bembridge is highly to be recommended; while the geological student may go far before he will find a field for his researches of such remarkable interest. The distance of Bembridge from Brading by Yarbridge, is 4 miles: the pedestrian may also reach it by the ferry from St. Helen's.

Bembridge Church.

(Rev. J. LE MESURIER, P. C. ; HELLYER, Arch., 1845.)

The *Church* is a pleasing building, in the Early English style, with a tower and spire at the west end, erected on the site of the former edifice, which in consequence of the badness of the foundations had to be taken down within less than 20 years from its consecration. It consists of two aisles divided by 5 well-proportioned arches, chancel, and south chapel. On the opposite side of the road a castellated front distinguishes the parsonage.*

Geological trips to Sandown Bay, Redcliff and Whitecliff Bay, &c., and St. Helen's.

Sandown Bay and the Bembridge Peninsula are localities of considerable interest to the geologist, exhibiting in the space of a few miles sections of *all* the strata visible in the Isle of Wight, from the tertiary beds, through the Chalk, Upper Greensand, Gault, and Lower Greensand, to the Wealden. The sojourner at this favourite summer resort may pleasantly and profitably avail himself of the opportunity for examining the leading characteristics of the strata, in which the works of Mantell, Forbes, and Fitton will supply all the guidance he can need.

* Mr. Le Mesurier is the munificent founder of the church in Alderney, of which his ancestors were the hereditary governors. See Dally's Guide to the Channel Islands, p. 187.

Route 43. Sandown to Redcliff Bay.

The visitor will do well to descend to the shore below Hale's Hotel and walk along the beach, where the groynes and breakwaters are opposing a vain resistance to the inroad of the sea on the soft wealden clay. The shore here is usually covered with pebbles, which, though offering a remarkably good collecting ground to the seeker for *agates*, *chalcedonies*, and *silicified zoophytes*, render the walk laborious. The shore, rising gradually, brings to view the junction of the *Hastings Sands* with the *Wealden clay*, by which the former are, as it were, insulated, the clay appearing again in the ruined cliffs obscured with landslips and mud torrents, which succeed the ferruginous precipices of Red Cliff. Before reaching this ruinous portion of the cliff, layers of small flat *oysters*, agglutinated by calcareous matter, may be observed. In the clay, *bones* of large *Sau-rians* and fruits of *coniferous plants* have from time to time been discovered, and many colossal bones of the *Iguanodon* have been obtained from the shingle.* The upper and more ferruginous beds of the *Lower Greensand*, which give the name to the cliff, now succeed, rising in bold mural precipices, seamed by the rains and honeycombed by weather, followed by the *Gault*, the slope of which is entirely covered with grass, and the *Upper Greensand*, about 25 feet thick, containing fine specimens of *Coral* and *Siphonice*. We have now reached the majestic *Chalk Headland*, which forbids all further progress even at low water except by wading, a course which cannot be recommended to any one unacquainted with the shore. "The outcrop of the grey chalk is superbly seen; alternating dark grey, almost blue, layers, and white, like a striped ribbon."† A rough path known as the *Cuckoo Road* leads to the summit of the cliff, by the ravine which marks the junction of the Wealden Clay and the Red Cliffs; the *Limpet Road* ascends the gault, up which it is possible to scramble, so as to return by the cliff-path; but the soil is very treacherous, especially after frost or rain.

* Mantell, p. 92.

† Fitton, p. 187.

Those who shrink from the troublesome walk over the shingly shore may reach Red Cliff Bay by boat.

**Route 44. Sandown to Whitecliff Bay and St. Helen's,
by water.**

Best Mode of seeing the Bay—Hire of Boat—Best Time for starting—
Whitecliff Bay—Succession of Strata—Bembridge Foreland—
Brading Haven—Pic-nic on St. Helen's Spit.

The expedition to Whitecliff Bay is most advantageously made by water. The noble headland of *Culver* can only be properly seen from the sea, from which also the order and arrangement of the successive strata is much more apparent than when viewed from the shore. *Whitecliff Bay* also, which is one of the most remarkable localities in a geological point of view in the whole island, is somewhat inaccessible by land, and may be approached much more readily in a boat. A rowing-boat is easily engaged at Sandown, which if taken one or two hours before high water, (with a north-west wind is best,) will enable a party as they proceed to examine at their leisure the beautiful mutations of the cliffs, which will be seen to pass from the dull brown of the Wealden to the red colour of the Lower Greensand, and thence through the dark grey of the Gault and Upper Greensand, and the dull beds of the Lower Chalk, into the pure dazzling hue of the White Cliff, strikingly banded with nearly vertical layers of flints. After rounding the point and noticing the projecting mass known as the *White Horse*, almost severed from the Cliff, we find ourselves in *Whitecliff Bay*, where the coast presents the same succession of strata as in Alum Bay, though much inferior in extent and in variety and vividness of colour. Here it would be well to land and gather some of the numerous fossils, which will be found without difficulty. The vertical strata which overlie the chalk, though much obscured with vegetation, follow in the same order as at Alum Bay, of *Plastic* or *Mottled Clays*, *London Clay* or *Bognor Beds*, *Bagshot* and *Bracklesham Beds*, *Barton Clays*, *Headon Hill Sands*, and *Fluvio-Marine Beds*, and the *St. Helen's* or *Osborne group*. The most

interesting point of the section is that where the horizontal beds of Bembridge Limestone rise in the cliff in a rapid and sudden curve, exhibiting the various members of these strata in their entirety and with beautiful clearness. "Between Foreland Point and the margin of the bay the limestone forms in great part the floor of the shore, with a hollow and slightly basin-shaped curve, the extension of which forms the reef known as Bembridge Ledge."* Above this lie the Bembridge Marls in an almost horizontal position.

Beyond the *Foreland* the cliffs are low, and consist almost exclusively of gravel as far as the entrance of *Brading Harbour*, which ought to be reached just at high-water. Here it will be well to remain till the ebb, an interval which may be agreeably passed in a sail up the lake-like expanse of the Haven to Brading and back, a ramble through the village of Bembridge, or a pic-nic on the Sandhills below St. Helen's. The last-named plan is a very pleasant mode of spending an hour or two in fine weather, as the close turf and dry soil affords every advantage for a "luncheon encampment," and the wonderful variety of neat little wild flowers (some of them of great rarity) offer an additional inducement to those who are fond of botanical pursuits. The archæologist will find something to interest him in the riven fragment of the Early English tower of *Old St Helen's Church* (see p. 151).

Starting again one or two hours after high-water, the current will do all the work, and it will require little more than an hour to accomplish the return to Sandown.

Route 45. Sandown to Adgeton, Alverstone, and Queen's Bower, and back. (6½ miles.)

Morton — Adgeton — Grove — Alverstone — Divergence to Kerne and Knighton — Alverstone Mill — Borthwood Forest — Queen's Bower — Skinner's Hill — Apse Heath — Cheverton — Lake — Footpath through Borthwood Forest.

This circuit, though offering no very striking features, is very enjoyable to the lover of quiet rural scenery. The way

* Forbes, p. 51.

lies principally along deep lanes rich in ferns, and embowered between tangled hedgerows, skirting the broad Yar valley, of which, and the Downs beyond, the views are very pleasing. Leaving Sandown, we cross the marshes on the way to Ryde, until, at the foot of the steep Brading Down, we turn to the left behind an old house known as *Morton* ($1\frac{1}{2}$ miles). Three quarters of a mile further brings us to *Adgeton*, a hamlet of Brading—often mentioned in Legh Richmond's diary as the scene of his missionary labours among the then neglected cottagers—and once a demesne belonging to William the Conqueror. Thence pleasant lanes, adapting themselves picturesquely to the undulating slopes of the Downs which tower above us to the right, lead to *Grove*, a farm-house, to which a former proprietor has added some rooms in a superior style, where some gigantic evergreens are noticeable. About one mile further our route leads to *Alverston*, one of the ancient Isle of Wight manors, of which the Saxon possessor, Tovi, was allowed to retain quiet possession at the Conquest, and where a free chapel was founded by the Strangways. Above *Alverstone-Lynch*, a spot of interest to the botanist, the red sandy cliff rises picturesquely in a bold curve, overgrown with coppice and brushwood, with the road winding at its base.

After passing through Alverstone farmyard, the road to the right leads to the little farm of *Kerne*, snugly nestling on the hill-side, whence we can either mount to the summit of the *Down*, and enjoy the widespread view, or turn off to the left by lovely and almost untrodden lanes to *Knighton* and *New Church*.

The route we are pursuing turns to the left at the farm, and descends to *Alverstone Mill* (mentioned in Domesday, when it was let for forty pence), a pretty spot, where the tourist will do well to halt, and ramble up the little stream, and through the copses towards New Church. The botanist will be rewarded by finding the Osmund Royal, the Marsh Fern, and other rarities in the woods and boggy meadows.

Returning to the mill and crossing the Yar, the road mounts the south side of the valley, burrowing deeply between bright red banks overhung with creepers, and soon

enters on what was once a wide tract of woodland, producing the best timber in the island, known as the

Forest of Bordwood,

or "Broadwood," from which, when Sandown Fort was built in the time of Henry VIII., trees, we are told, were brought for the works, "30 feet in length clean timber, weighing 3 or 4 tons apiece." At present there is scarcely a large tree to be found in its whole extent, and not a year passes but the lover of sylvan beauty has to lament the destruction of a portion of the remnant left by the progress of cultivation. In old times the forest was a noble hunting ground*, well stocked with "red and fallow deer, heath-cocks," and other game. All the adjacent commons were regarded as within its verge, and all persons were prohibited from coming upon them save at stated times. The last "Lady of the Island," Isabella de Fortibus, used to come hither from her castle of Carisbrook for the pleasures of the chase, and an insulated knoll to the right of the road, overgrown with fern and gorse, (worth ascending for the sake of the wide view) still preserves in the name "*Queen Bower*" the memory of the Countess of Albemarle's hunting lodge. Till lately, a mean cottage occupied the site; but this has been pulled down, and the property having fallen into the hands of one who respects the traditions of the past, there is reason to hope that a more worthy building will occupy the historic ground.

Immediately beyond Queen Bower, a road to the right leads by *Skinner's Hill*, a steep hollow lane with red crumbling banks, and up the opposite side of the valley, to New Church.

The road to Sandown strikes to the left, over

Apse Heath,

a wide sandy steppe sheltered by a plantation of dark firs, utterly barren till within the last few years, but gradually

* Bordwood Forest was granted to Philippa, Duchess of York, by Henry V., A.D. 1417.

coming under cultivation, and producing tolerable crops of wheat. The view here is fine. Looking over the woodland of Bordwood, to the left we catch a glimpse of the snowy Culvers rising from the blue waters of Sandown Bay: in front the triple range of chalk downs forms a huge barrier between us and the sea, sending out long spurs inland, stretching like piers into the plain, with remarkable uniformity of outline, and terminating in vertical cliffs. Cook's Castle will be noticed on Shanklin Down, Worsley's Obelisk on that above Appuldurcombe, and the twin lighthouses, and Hoy's Pillar, on St. Catherine's. Continuing over the heath, (taking care to avoid a tempting road to the right,) we reach the Newport and Sandown road, and turning to the left pass the little farms of *Cheverton* and *Merry* Garden*, once famous for its cherry orchards, on the left, and the woodland of *Apse* and *America*, clothing the lower slopes of Shanklin Down, full of temptations to delicious rambles, to the right, and reach *Lake* (6 m.) and *Sandown*.

The traveller on foot or horseback will do well to quit the road at Queen Bower, and taking one of the delicious green lanes to the left, cross through the forest, which, though so sorely denuded, offers much that is picturesque, to Cheverton Farm, where he will again enter the high road.

Route 46. Sandown to Black Pan Common and Bordwood.

Leaving Sandown below the barracks, and striking inland, we reach *Black Pan Common*, a rough gorsy tract with pleasing views of the valley of the Yar, and the wooded slopes of Adgeton and Grove, and the Downs beyond, and offering much of interest to the botanist and entomologist. Keeping down the hill to the left, we reach the marshy valley below, and crossing the brook arrive at *Little Bordwood*, on the skirts of the once extensive forest of the same name, through which a very pleasant walk leads by *Cheverton*, or *Lee Farms*, into the Newport Road.

* From the French "Merise" = Wild cherry.

Route 47. Sandown to Merry Garden, Ninham, America, and Languard.

Taking the Newport road as far as the first bridge, a road to the left leads to the old farmhouse of *Languard*, (see Route 53.) The pedestrian, if he can find a gap in the hedge, should continue by the stream along the pretty valley shaded with low gnarled oaks, to *Ninham*, whence a truly lovely walk or ride extends through the *America* plantations, now alas! much curtailed, to *Apse*, an old gabled manor-house, deep in the wood, once belonging to the Canons of Christchurch Twynham, from which Shanklin may be reached by the *Cliff* Farm, or we may make our way into the high road by way of *Hide* or *Languard*. The whole of the district is very lovely, and offers many delightful walks and rides to the enterprising visitor.

Route 48. Sandown to Arreton, and home by the Downs.

(11 miles.)

Preferable Route — Brenson — Dairyman's Cottage — Horringford — Stickworth — Arreton : Church, Monuments, Tomb of the Dairyman's Daughter, Manor House, Antiquities — St. George's Down — East Standen — Princess Cicely — Lord Southampton — Bowling Green — Bridle Path to Newport — West Standen — Long Lane — Road to Wootton — Briddlesford — Downs — Views — Messley Down — Hasely — Newchurch — Ashe Down — View — Brading Down — Nunwell.

One of the most attractive excursions from Sandown, which has indeed few rivals in the whole island, is to the central ridge of *Chalk Downs*. The most usual way is to ascend from Brading; but if the tourist's object is simply to enjoy the views, and not to proceed to Newport or Cowes, he will do better to drive along the valley of the Yar as far as Arreton, and ascending the Downs there, return along the ridge, and make Brading his point of descent. The advantage of this course is that he accomplishes the least interesting part of the drive first, and in his ride along the Downs has the finest portion of the prospect before him.

There is nothing very attractive before reaching Arreton,

though the road, which passes *Lake, Merry Gardens*, and skirts *Apse Heath*, is pleasant enough, and affords some good views. Shortly after passing the hamlet of *Brenson*, (in Newchurch parish) the *Dairyman's Cottage*, immortalised by Legh Richmond, may be noticed to the left, nearly opposite a small Wesleyan Chapel. The Yar is crossed at *Horringtonford*, with *Stickworth*, (C. Halson, Esq.) among the trees to the left. *Godshill* church is seen crowning its insulated knoll to the left, and *Newchurch* church, on the edge of a steep bank, to the right; the road approaches the Downs, and soon reaches the long straggling street of *Arreton*, (5 m.)

Arreton.

The church, which lies in a valley at the foot of the Down, at the head of the village street, is one of the best and most interesting in the Isle of Wight. It was one of the six churches given by Fitz-Osborne to the Abbey of Lire shortly after the Conquest; and the small Norman windows, of which traces may be discerned in the west gable half hidden by the towers, and the low arch opening from the tower to the church, are probably fragments of the original building. One of the piers of the north aisle is also Norman, but perhaps not so early. The most interesting portion is the double-gabled chancel, of Early English date, and very excellent design, the style of which is so superior to anything else in the island, except the chancel of Shalfleet, which it much resembles, that it is evident that other than the local workmen must have been employed. The eastern elevation is plain but dignified; and the windows, with plain circles in the head, are of excellent proportions. The tower is of Perpendicular date, low, and square; but though wanting in height, there was a defect in its construction, and it has required to be buttressed up with huge masses of masonry, which give it a very heavy outline. In the interior, the neglect of years has to be redressed, and though a better day is at hand, it still presents a squalid appearance. The arcade dividing the chancels is of singular beauty; finely

moulded arches spring from slender cylindrical columns of dark shell marble, from which the whitewash has been recently removed. In the chancel windows are some fragments of ancient quarries, coeval with the tracery. To the west of the altar is an aumbry. On the floor of the south chancel is a monumental brass (A.D. 1430), with a headless effigy in plate armour, and inscription remarkable as being among the earliest examples of an *English* epitaph:

“ Here is y’ buried under this grave
Harry Hawles ; his soul God save.
Longe tyme steward of the yle of Wyght
Have mercy on hym God ful of might.”

The matrix of another brass with two effigies lies to the east ; and there are several brass plates with inscriptions against the walls of the church : one against a pillar in the south aisle to William Serle (1595) is worth notice, from the quaintness of the lines in which his good deeds are commemorated. The churchyard contains more curious epitaphs than are usually met with.

On a desk in the south chancel are preserved copies of “Fox’s Book of Martyrs,” but of a comparatively modern edition. In the same aisle are white marble monuments to Sir Henry Worsley Holmes (who inherited the baronetcy, but not the estates, on the death of Sir Richard Worsley, and took the name of Holmes, as representative of the Isle of Wight family of that name) and his two sons, Richard Fleming Worsley, drowned at the age of twenty-two in the River Hamble, and (in a chapel to the west), Sir Leonard Worsley Holmes, in whom the baronetcy became extinct. The bas-relief on Mr. Richard Worsley’s monument is by Westmacott. A different taste with regard to sepulchral memorials now reigns, nor is there anything in these to lead us to regret the change.

An humble grave to the north-east of the church, with a headstone bearing an epitaph of much simple beauty from the pen of her biographer, is the last resting-place of Elizabeth Walbridge, the “Dairyman’s Daughter,” the subject of Legh Richmond’s celebrated narrative ; which,

after having been translated into most European languages, and proved extensively useful, has lately "led to most beneficial results in Nicomedia, successfully proclaiming the gospel in the city whence Diocletian issued his first edicts against Christianity." * By her side repose her sister and her aged parents.

The parish is the second in extent in the island, containing 8833 acres. Its population at the last census was 1902, a decrease of 58 since 1841. In 1801 it contained 1374 inhabitants.

A little to the north-west of the church stands a large Jacobean *Manor-House*, almost identical in style and plan with that at Yaverland, but wanting its noble trees, and, like that, containing grotesque carving worth notice. Immediately beyond this house a good road ascends the Downs, passing an enormous *chalk pit* (where the geologist may look for the characteristic fossils of the stratum), and some *barrows*, in which, when opened in 1815, were discovered arms, spear-heads, combs, and other articles of Anglo-Saxon workmanship, some of which are in the museum at Newport. A considerable number of bronze celts and spear-heads have also been found here, as well as in a piece of marshy ground to the north-west of the church. At the point where this road branches off from the regular Newport road, a bridle-path to Newport climbs *St. George's Down*, passing the manor-house of *East Standen*. The long lane which winds up the hill, picturesquely sunk between high red banks, covered with the waving fronds of the polypody, and festooned with woodbine, clematis, and ivy, and rich in wild flowers, is much to be preferred to the more direct ascent by those on foot or horseback. If travelling in a carriage, the tourist can order it to wait for him at the top of the Down while he makes the circuit on foot. The view of the valley of the Medina from the summit of St. George's Down, extending over Newport to Parkhurst and the Hampshire coast, is very fine. The Down is a continuation of the central ridge of chalk, the nearly vertical strata of which may be seen in several pits on the north side. Its

* Report of Tract Society.

top and south side are covered with very deep beds of siliceous gravel, breaking out on the side of the hill in rocky masses of conglomerate, which conceal the sandstone strata that otherwise would be found here. The manor-house of East Standen is a building of the last century, the only noticeable feature of which is an enormous and picturesque chimney at the north gable. It was here that the Princess Cicely, third daughter of Edward IV., and sister of Henry the Seventh's queen, "a lady not so fortunate as fair," (*Hall*), retired after her marriage with her second husband, Thomas Kymbe or Keme, a person of such obscure birth that nothing can be learnt concerning him. This princess inherited an extraordinary share of the personal beauty of her family, and was twice betrothed to the heir of the crown of Scotland; but political changes set the marriage aside, and she condescended to take a subject for her husband, Thomas, Lord Welles, a maternal cousin of Henry VII. Being left a childless widow, she united herself to her second husband, with whom "she lived not in great wealth:" her second marriage was never recognised by the king, and her life of contented mediocrity came to a speedy close, Aug. 24th, 1507. She died at Standen, and was buried in the church of Quarr Abbey.

Lord Southampton * resided at Standen when governor of the island in the early part of the seventeenth century, at which time a bowling-green was laid out on the Down above the house, and "a house of accommodation" erected, where the governor and the gentlemen of the island were accustomed to meet and dine together twice a week. Sir

* The popularity of Lord Southampton is evidenced by a little work of excessive rarity brought to the writer's notice by Dr. Martin of Ventnor, entitled, "The Teares of the Isle of Wight, shed on the Tombe of their most noble, valorous, and louing Captaine and Governour the Right Honourable HENRIE, Earle of *Southampton*, who dyed in the *Netherlands*, Nouemb. $\frac{19}{20}$, at *Bergen-vp-Zone*. Also the true image of his person and virtues JAMES the Lord *Wriothesly*, Knight of the *Bath* and Baron of *Titchfield*, who dyed Nouemb. $\frac{5}{15}$, at *Rosendaell*. And were both buried in the Sepulcher of their Fathers at *Titchfield* on *Innocents' Day*, 1624."

J. Oglander gives a list of the members of this *Club*, as we should now call it, thirty of whom, he says, he has seen together at one time. As an evidence of the decline of the prosperity of the island, he instances the discontinuance of this meeting in 1629 for want of company. At Standen was a chapel, the foundations of which were to be traced in the orchard behind the house in Sir R. Worsley's day.

From East Standen, Newport may be reached by bridle path. We turn to the right, and passing *West Standen*, the site of another ancient manor, soon reach the road on the ridge of the downs. At this point a branch is sent off from the ridge in a north-west direction, consisting entirely of clay and gravel, along which a road known as *Longlane* leads to Newport (3 miles.) The views are in many places very beautiful. Another road descends the downs and runs due north to Wootton (3 miles), skirting *Combley* and *Briddlesford* woods. (At Briddlesford, which was part of the wide possessions of the Lises, was St. Martin's Chapel, built and endowed by Sir John Lisle.)

The Views from the Ridge.

Our way is along the ridge of the Down, which from its narrowness and steepness commands a wide and brilliant prospect on either side. Perhaps the point from which the view is the finest, is *Ashey* Sea-Mark, 424 feet above the sea; but the whole is very beautiful. Immediately below, to the south, is the Vale of New Church, rich in corn and pasture lands, through which winds the little Yar; beyond, rise the long undulations of the southern chalk range, with its projecting spurs. To the east we have the dusky headland of Dunnose forming the south-western, as the gleaming cliffs of Culver are the north-eastern horn of the majestic curve of Sandown Bay. To the north the eye ranges over a less strongly marked, but not less beautiful district, which Sir H. Englefield's pen has described with its usual truth and vividness: though the woods have, unhappily, been much thinned since his time: — "To the north the woodlands form an almost continued velvet carpet of near 10,000 acres, broken only by small farms,

whose thatched buildings relieve the deep tints of the foliage. The Wootton river winds beautifully among them, and beyond the whole, the Solent Sea, like a broad river, spreads its waters, which in clear weather are tinged with an azure more beautiful and deep than any I ever saw. The Hampshire land rises in a succession of hills, quite lost at length in blue vapour."

To the west we see the long line of Gatcombe, Bowcombe, and Chillerton Downs, forming an irregular prolongation of the chalk ridge, which, beyond the gap at the Medina Valley, makes a sharp turn southwards, and runs in that direction until it resumes its westerly direction at Shorwell.

The range, though continuous on the whole, is broken by depressions, the different elevations receiving their names from the villages and hamlets at their foot. Between Arreton and Asheys Downs, *Messly Down* intervenes. Southward, immediately below this, is *Haseley*, now an extensive farm, once a manor belonging to the monks of Quarr, and notable in Isle of Wight history. (See p. 58.) Beyond this the church and village of Newchurch come into view, on the ridge of the wooded cliff, and we look down on the site of the ancient mansion of Knighton.

The geologist will notice the lower ridge of "Green-sand" which runs through the island parallel to the chalk, and the valley marking the "gault," which are here most distinctly seen. We soon reach

Ashey Sea-Mark,

a triangular pyramid with the apex obliquely truncated, erected in 1735 to facilitate the navigation of the St. Helen's Roads. The view embraces here to the north, *Haven Street*, with its tiny church and the conspicuous mansion of the Rev. F. Kent; the woodlands surrounding Binstead, Quarr, and Wootton, with the waters of the Wootton river glancing through the sea of foliage; the town of Ryde, with the graceful spire of Trinity Church, to the east; the valley of Smallbrook, and the wide green expanse of Whitefield Woods beyond; and close on the margin of the blue Solent, the lonely church of St. Helen's, and the village of Nettle-

stone. As we advance, we notice the Ryde or Smallbrook valley coming up to the left, at the depression between Ashey and Brading Downs, and look down on the venerable oaks of Nunwell, and to the right over the broad valley of the Yar, — evidently once a tidal estuary like that of the Medina or its namesake at the west of the island, — to the woods of Alverstoke, Bordwood, and Shanklin. The sweeping curve of Sandown Bay, and Dunnose close the prospect. From the east end of the Down we descend to the higher part of Brading, and return to Sandown. The entire circuit is about 11 miles.

Route 49. Sandown to Shanklin, by the Shore.

Geological Character of the Bay — Little Stairs Point — Supposed "Fault" — Small Hope Chine — Knock Cliff — Shanklin Chine.

The visitor who wishes to examine the whole range of cliffs will do well to descend to the shore at Hale's hotel, from which to beyond the King's Head there is a flat occupied by the wealden clay, which is only visible at low tides, or when the beach has been washed away by rough seas. From the point where the strata begin to rise, to the southern horn of the bay beyond Shanklin Chine, the cliffs exhibit admirable sections of the lower beds of the "lower green-sand," displaying "almost every variety, from a calcareous rock resembling the Kentish rag, to a stone composed almost entirely of green particles" of silicate of iron, from which the formation takes its name.* The line of cliff is very broken, mounting rapidly from the King's Head to a height of 100 or 150 feet in the vicinity of the Barracks, and falling and rising again continually as we advance along the firm hard sands. As we proceed, the different beds appear with beautiful distinctness, presenting alternations of clay and sand of varying degrees of hardness; sometimes rising in mural cliffs whose loamy surface is continually peeling off in large flakes, rendering it rather perilous to walk too close, especially after rain or frost; in other places broken by shelves covered with coarse vegetation, and gay in the

* Fitton — Strata below Chalk, p. 7.

early summer with the yellow corymbs of the Kidney and Horse-shoe Vetch and golden Lotus ; or, again, stained with ochreous hues by the little streams which, percolating through the sandy strata, ooze forth on meeting with a more retentive bed, and trickle down the face of the cliff.

About two-thirds of the distance between Sandown and Shanklin, the curve of the bay is broken by the projection of a fine headland called *Little Stairs Point*, immediately to the north of which occurs a remarkable fissure, where Sir John Herschel supposed the existence of a fault, (or breach of continuity of strata), though Dr. Fitton ascribes "the more rapid rise in the beds, to the change in the direction of the shore."

Beyond this point, the beds ascend a little to *Small Hope Chine*, a break in the cliff devoid of picturesque beauty, through which we may ascend, if we please, to the high road. Here the lower beds contain noble specimens of the *Gryphæa sinuata*, a large fossil oyster, which may be found in good preservation at low water in the rocks which lie on the level surface of the sandy shore. At Small Hope the beds resume their former dip to the south, the cliffs rising in altitude till they reach their greatest height at *Knockcliff*, to the south of *Shanklin Chine*. Above *Horse-Ledge* reef, one of the beds of highly ferruginous sandrock of much darker hue than the adjacent strata is highly fossiliferous, and the deep brown masses which have fallen from above and are lying loose on the beach near the Point, may be examined with the assurance of discovering specimens of interest.

Route 50. Sandown to Shanklin, by the Cliff.

The summit of the cliff offers a pleasant walk between Sandown and Shanklin, commanding views of great beauty. The action of the sea on the base, and of the wind and rain combined on the upper face of the cliffs, is producing a rapid waste, acres of ground having been lost in the memory of man ; and it will be wise not to approach too near the crumbling verge, lest the descent to the shore below prove more rapid than is agreeable. The distance is a little less than 2 miles.

Route 51. Sandown to Shanklin, by the Road. (2½ miles.)

The two miles between Sandown and Shanklin are not particularly interesting: the road is carried at some little distance from the edge of the cliffs, and the ground rises so rapidly that all view of the sea is shut out; nor is there much in the inland prospect to compensate for this loss, the eye ranging over the undulations of the broad sandy valley towards Newchurch and Godshill without meeting with any marked object to break the monotony, except when the bold range of Shanklin Down, with its fine swelling outline rising to a height of nearly 800 feet, comes into view.

After passing the barracks and parsonage, the road descends a steepish hill with red sandstone banks, and reaches the hamlet of *Lake*, where an old grey farmhouse of James the First's time is a pleasing object; a rough road at the back leads to *Pan Common*. At Lake turnpike the road to Newport (7½ miles) by *Horringtonford* and *Arreton* turns off to the right (p. 180). As we approach Shanklin, and descend the hill, the scenery improves; the view of the Downs which had been concealed opens again, and the lower slopes are seen beautifully fringed with hanging wood, half concealing the bold mural cliff from which the turrets of *Cook's Castle* (a modern ruin) peep out picturesquely; the white houses of Shanklin appear scattered over the rising ground immediately before us, while on the left rise the sullen cliffs of the headland of Dunnose.

Before entering Shanklin a road to the left leads by the brick-kiln in Small Hope Chine to the shore, others to the right lead to Languard, Hide, and Apse. We soon reach *Gatton* or the lower village, and passing the pretentious compo chapel find ourselves at Shanklin.

CHAPTER V.

SHANKLIN.

Route 52. Shanklin.

Excursions, &c.

- 53. Shanklin to Languard, Cheverton, Borthwood, Queen Bower, Apse, &c.
- 54. „ Languard, Ninham, America, Apse, and Cliff or Hide.
- 55. „ Godshill and Chale.
- 56. „ Cook's Castle, Apse Reach, and Cliff.
- 57. „ Luccombe, by the Shore or Fields, with continuation to Bonchurch by the Landslip.
- 58. „ Luccombe, Bonchurch, and Ventnor, by the High Road.
- 59. „ Bonchurch and Ventnor, by the Downs.

Route 52. Shanklin.

Former Condition of Village and Inhabitants — Change — Increase of Building — Hotels — Lodgings — Description of the Village — Chine — Landing of French — Shore — Along the Sands to Luccombe Chine — Geology of the Cliffs — Seaweeds — Zoophytes — Parsonage — Church — Manor-House.

A VERY few years since Shanklin was perhaps the loveliest village in the Isle of Wight, celebrated for its “retired cottages beautifully adorned with roses, honeysuckles, and other flowering shrubs, flourishing in the utmost luxuriance,” as if “the habit of living among fine scenery had given a taste and an eye for the picturesque to the lowest classes.” Nearly every cottage, however mean, was in the habit of letting lodgings in the summer, and was surrounded by “a neat garden full of flowering shrubs,” while such was its Utopian blessedness that “the inhabitants were like one large family; ill nature was not known among them; obliging in the extreme, they seemed to be happiest when their visitants were best pleased.” (*Hassell*.) Every addition that was then made to the scanty accommodations of the village was in perfect harmony with the surrounding

scenery, and bore witness to the refined taste by which the whole was watched over and directed.

But now, alas! all is changed, or fast changing; and though the kindly feeling of which Hassell speaks has not yet deserted its old domicile, and there are those at Shanklin who shed brightness and happiness around them, the retired village has swelled into the fashionable watering-place, and the watering-place greed of gain is making itself painfully manifest. Crowds of visitors, including many Russians of distinction with whom the place is remarkably popular, throng hither in the summer; and shops, villas, and terraces are springing up on all sides, marring many an exquisite view with their tasteless forms and crude colouring.

No doubt visitors required accommodation, and those who have the most lively appreciation of the beauties of nature would be the last to desire to exclude others from a share in their enjoyment. We do not deprecate the increase of building in the abstract, however sincerely we may regret the transformation of quiet retired nooks into crowded and bustling places of resort; but we do express our sorrow, that in most recent building speculations the *genius loci* should be so entirely disregarded, and that without for a moment considering what style of building and what material will be most suitable to a particular locality, and how the houses may be arranged so as to do the least violence to its natural character, builders are permitted to follow their own bent, and irreparably spoil what the hand of the Divine Artificer has made so fair. But enough of these complaints: with all that Shanklin has suffered of late (and it has suffered very much), there is enough left unspoilt, and we hope safe from the spoiler's hand, to delight all who have any eye for the beauties of nature. The scale is not grand, and those who come to the Isle of Wight expecting mountains and glens and cascades will be disappointed. But those whose anticipations have been restrained within reasonable bounds will find few spots where it is more delightful to sojourn, or exhibiting more real loveliness.

Hotels

The hotels of Shanklin are excellent, and tempt many a traveller to prolong his stay beneath their roof. *Daish's* at the top of the hill, is the larger and more modern establishment, and commands the more extensive view. *Williams'*, late *Hollier's*, at the foot, a picturesque thatched cottage, with its walls gay with geraniums and roses, is not only a beautiful subject for the artist's pencil, but equally deserving of commendation for the excellence of its arrangements. Both the hotels stand in pretty gardens, which add much to their attractiveness. The *Crab* is a house of humbler pretensions, but quite equal in picturesqueness to its more aspiring neighbours.

Lodgings

are good and plentiful. The principal agents are Mr. Buckle, Mr. Saunders, and Mr. Johnson.

The older houses lie mostly along the roads leading right and left from *Daish's* Hotel. Those lately built stand in all their nakedness on the brink of the cliff, near the Chine; a very exposed situation, but commanding a noble view of the whole sweep of Sandown Bay. Another row of houses, of rather earlier date, occupies the slipped ground beneath the brown crumbling cliffs, on the very edge of the shore; a position which will be chosen by those whose visit is to the sea rather than the land, and who wish to avail themselves of the pleasures of the beach without the necessity of a steep and fatiguing climb.

The Village

stands in a little valley 300 feet above the sea, well-clothed with ornamental timber and sheltered by the Downs, which form a noble background. The mildness of its climate is attested by the gigantic myrtles which clothe the walls of the ancient parsonage, as well as other tender plants which remain out of doors all the winter. There is seldom any severe frost here; but as it is unprotected from the east wind, and loses the sun behind Dunnose at an early hour,

Shanklin is more suited for a summer resort than for a residence during the winter and spring, especially for those who suffer from delicacy of chest. The flat sandy shore affords excellent bathing at all states of the tide.

Shanklin Chine.

The great object of attraction at Shanklin is the *Chine*, which, like most places in the Isle of Wight, has been so much overpraised that the first feeling on viewing it is frequently one of disappointment. But though its dimensions are diminutive, its "rocks" little better than indurated clay, the "cascade," a tiny dribble, "such as might flow through a lady's ring," and, to the disgrace of the inhabitants of Shanklin, polluted with the filthy drainings of a brewery,—and though the path which leads through it is a little too formal, and the closely shut gates, with their watchful warders, tend to diminish its charm, it is so eminently picturesque that if the visitor will wisely forget the wilder and deeper glens he may have seen elsewhere, and give himself up to present enjoyment, he will find an abundance of beauty to repay him. The little stream which flows through to the *Chine* bursts out from the side of the hill above the church, and as soon as it enters upon the soft sands and clays of the "lower greensand," which form the foundation of the Down, it begins to scoop out for itself a channel (crossed by the road below the church), gradually deepening and widening, until its further course is checked by a layer of harder sandstone at the "head of the *Chine*," across which the little cascade falls; and, meeting with no further opposition in the soft strata which occur in the lower part of its course, has excavated a winding glen, prettily clothed with coppice, and adorned with graceful tufts of waving fern, 150 yards long, and 300 feet wide at its mouth, reaching right through the cliffs, which it divides "like a mighty gash inflicted by the sword of an Orlando."*

* "To *Chine*" is an old English word, derived from the Anglo-Saxon *cinan*, to chink, or rive, employed by Spenser; *e. g.* "it *chyned* his backe behind the sell;" and Dryden, "He that in his day did *chine* the long rib'd Apennine."

The Chine is reached by a road to the left, half way between the two hotels, that, passing a picturesque little public-house, nestling under the singularly-twisted boughs of a venerable oak, descends the steep hill, and brings you to a locked gate, where a janitor is usually waiting to admit you on the receipt of a slender fee. Happily "the locked gate" is the extent of the evil; when once admitted you are free to wander at will, and when satisfied you may either retrace your steps and make your exit by the same gate if you are desirous of enjoying a ramble on the sea-shore, or by the gate at the upper end of the Chine if you are returning to one of the hotels or to a carriage.

"The curvature of the ravine brings the several parts into very various and often graceful combinations: the views too, looking from the Chine, where the broad expanse of ocean is seen, set in a frame of dark cliff, wrought over with a tracery of exquisite foliage, is both peculiar and pleasing; while, from the platform on either side of the mouth, the bay, with its bold headlands and broken cliffs, is even grand." (*Thorne*). The picturesque *Tower Cottage* (Mrs. Cameron), standing on the very brink of the Chine, contributes a pleasing feature to the scene.

Shanklin Chine, according to Mr. Froude, was the scene of the disastrous landing of the brave Chevalier d'Eulx for a supply of fresh water, at the close of the unsuccessful invasion of the French in 1549. "The stream was small," writes the historian, "the task was tedious, and the Chevalier, who, with a few companies, was appointed to guard the watering-parties, seeing no signs of danger wandered inland, attended by some of his men, to the top of the high down adjoining. The English, who had been engaged with the other detachments two days before, had kept on the hills watching the motions of the fleet. The Chevalier was caught in an ambuscade, and, after defending himself like a hero, he was killed and most of his followers."*

* Hist. of Engl., iv. 429. Sir J. Oglander states that the landing took place at Bonchurch.

The Shore.

After visiting the Chine, a ramble along the shore may be recommended. At low water the sands are firm and good, and afford capital ground for a gallop, as well as for pedestrian exercise. Paying attention to the state of the tide, you may proceed along the shore either northwards round *Little Stairs Point* towards *Sandown*, or southwards to *Horseledge*, and rounding the headland, continue your ramble to *Luccombe Chine*, where you may ascend to the top of the cliff, and return to Shanklin by a path across the fields. The view of the Chine from the sands, with the little cottages scattered at its mouth, is very picturesque, and the contrast between the rich verdure within and the sullen naked cliffs which rise on either hand, very striking.

The *geological character* of these cliffs in the neighbourhood of Shanklin is thus described by Mantell. "The western cliff of Shanklin Chine, 230 feet high, consists of an alternating series of clays and sands. The upper part is greenish-white sand, resting on a bed of dark-blue clay: beneath this is another stratum of sand, and a second bed of clay lying on a deposit of greenish-gray sand with bands of sandstone. The lower part consists of ferruginous sands, with concretionary layers of greensand full of fossil *terebratulæ*. The argillaceous partings have given rise to narrow ledges, which are verdant from a covering of rank grass: but slips are continually taking place from the wasting away of the sand by the oozing of the water, arrested in its descent from the porous strata above by these beds of clay."

The ledges of rocks which break the uniformity of the sandy shore afford the lover of *Seaweeds* and *Zoophytes* a good collecting ground. Some of the best of the Isle of Wight seaweeds are here met with, especially the *Padina Pavonia*, so singularly resembling the markings of a turkey's tail. Among the actiniae there are the *Mesembryanthemum*, so common everywhere; the dull-coloured but interesting *Bellis*, and the exquisite vermilion-spotted *Clavata*, or

Weymouth Anemone, of all shades from the purest white to dark brown. To secure the two last, the use of a hammer and chisel is often required, from their habit of burrowing in the cavities of the rock. *Mr. Sampson*, at the Bazaar at the mouth of the Chine, usually has a good collection of these beautiful and interesting creatures, and sometimes other marine animals suitable for an aquarium.

On leaving the Chine, the visitor may stroll pleasantly among the pretty thatched cottages, embowered in roses and other graceful creepers, which still remain untouched, towards the church. On his way he will pass the *Parsonage* to the right, a picturesque building, retaining its pristine covering of thatch, and various portions of considerable antiquity among the modern improvements made with much taste by the present incumbent. The front of the house, which commands views of the greatest loveliness over the lower wooded slopes of the Downs, is covered with myrtles, whose thick trunks bear witness to their extreme antiquity: it is said that in former years faggots of fire-wood have been cut from them.

On the left is the upper ravine of the Chine, a picturesque gully occupied with orchards and cottage gardens; and proceeding up the hill, taking care to turn from time to time to catch the wondrously beautiful view of the Culvers rising from the deep azure waters beneath the o'er-arching foliage,

The Church (St. John Baptist or St. Blaise, Rev. G. W. Southouse, R.) is soon reached, standing on a little broken knoll with groups of elms and other trees scattered round, and a deep gorge rich in stately ferns hard by. Though an ancient foundation — built as a Manorial chapel by one of the great family of De Insula or Lisle, about Edward the Third's reign; and only very slowly gaining parochial independence, and throwing off the authority of the mother church of Brading, in whose churchyard, till within the last four or five years, the inhabitants were bound to inter their dead — it has received so many alterations and ad-

ditions in the last ten years, that almost every trace of antiquity has vanished.

It was a small mean building of no architectural interest, so that there is little reason to regret its loss, though it is much to be desired that the additions which have been made in so praiseworthy a spirit had been planned in stricter accordance with ancient models. The church has been made to assume a cruciform shape by the erection of enormous transepts, while a taper shingled spire, too diminutive for the building, rises at the intersection. The exterior however is not wanting in picturesqueness, and it forms a pretty object in the views around. Within, the church wears a very different aspect from the meanness and squalor which so long disgraced it; and the House of God is no longer the worst cared for house in the parish. But there is little or nothing to attract a visitor, for even the old carved chest, bearing the initials of Prior Thomas Silkstede of Winchester, which was once an object of interest, has been removed to the Manor-House. Shanklin, till the present incumbency, had been held with Bonchurch for more than 300 years: the benefices are now divided. The parish contains 775 acres: its population in 1801 was about 100 souls; in 1841, 462; and at the last census appears to show a decrease of 107, a diminution which must have been far more than made up for by the growth of the last ten years, which will soon render a new church necessary.

To the north-east of the church stands the *Manor-House*, square built, with high peaked roof, heavy cornice, and long casements, of the early part of the last century. In the garden is a large summer-house, where tradition tells that the Pretender's health used to be quaffed in flowing bumpers: the possessors of the manor being staunch Jacobites. Not far from the Manor-House on the Godshill bridle road, stands the cottage of the accomplished authoress who, under the *nomme de plume* of "Holme Lee," has charmed and instructed the world with her graceful fictions.

EXCURSIONS FROM SHANKLIN.

The huge down which rises immediately to the south of Shanklin, extending inland in a long spur terminating in nearly perpendicular cliffs, cuts off all direct communication with the country on that side, except by the steep shute which, taking advantage of the least elevated part of the ridge, winds by a circuitous course to Bonchurch and Ventnor. The country to the west is open and very delightful, but, strangely enough, there are at present none but foot and bridle paths in that direction, and every one who wishes to drive inland is obliged to retrace his steps along the Sandown road as far as Lake turnpike. The formation of a good road in the line of the existing bridle-path to Godshill would be a great boon to the inhabitants and visitors, which we trust will not be much longer withheld. But while the carriage excursions from Shanklin are limited, and are almost identical with those commanded from Sandown and Bonchurch, there are few localities in the island offering so many and such pleasant walks—the shore, the downs, the woodland, all have their own attractions, and invite to many a delicious stroll.

Route 53. Shanklin to Languard, Cheverton, Borthwood, Queen's Bower, Apse, and Cliff or Hide.

This is a very pleasant ride or walk of about 5 miles, going in part over the same ground as in Route 47. Leaving Shanklin by the chapel on the left, and taking the right hand road on going through the first gate, we soon reach *Languard*, an old manor-house, sunk as usual to a farmhouse, but still retaining some traces of its former dignity in the avenue of decrepit yews stretching across the field towards the brow of the hill in front of the house, and the traces of extensive garden walls. Thence we gain the high road at *Merrygarden*, and as in Route 45, reach *Borthwood* and *Queen Bower* by *Cheverton*, and crossing *Apse Heath* make our way to *Apse* farm, from which we can return by the lovely umbrageous rides of *America* and *Ninham* to Lan-

guard, or by *Hide* or *Cliff*, ancient isolated farms now merged in the larger properties around them, to Shanklin.

Route 54. Shanklin to Languard, Ninham, America, Cliff, or Hide.

A shorter round of about 3 miles may be taken over part of the same ground by passing through the farmyard at the back of *Languard*, and crossing the fields to the woody retired vale of *Ninham*, and thence by the woodland rides to *America*, and home by *Cliff* or *Hide*.

Route 55. Shanklin to Godshill and Chale, returning by Blackgang, Niton, St. Lawrence, Ventnor, and Bonchurch.

This circuit, to which a long summer's day should be devoted, affords visitors whose time is limited and who do not intend to proceed further westward to sojourn, an opportunity of seeing the most interesting portion of the island without going over the same ground twice. The whole is fully described in other Routes: for *Shanklin* to *Lake*, see Route 51; *Lake* to *Apse Heath*, Route 45; *Apse Heath* to *Whetely Bank*, Route 37; *Whetely Bank* to *Godshill*, Route 22; *Godshill* to *Chale*, Route 25; *Chale* to *Blackgang*, *Ventnor*, and *Shanklin*, Routes 58. 70. 71.

Route 56. Shanklin to Cook's Castle, Apse Reach, and Cliff.
(3½ miles.)

A path strikes across the steeply rising fields from the west end of the churchyard to the summit of the richly wooded inland cliff, (of "upper greensand," the land face of the undercliff range,) and leads along its verge at a proximity which demands wary walking, (a fatal accident occurred here only 3 or 4 years back,) to Cook's Castle (2 miles), a modern ruin erected originally as an object in the view from Appuldurcombe, with later additions in very questionable taste, from which the prospect is very extensive and varied: the church of Godshill, on the top of its low round hill; Arreton sleeping in the shadow of the Downs, and Newchurch with its white spire; the valley of the Yar; the Apse and Bordwood Woodland; the snowy

Culvers and the Downs bounding the scene. We may descend along the slope of the hill to the pretty lonely cottages of Apse Reach, and beneath the shade of the tall trees which clothe the base of the rocks, to Cliff Farm.

Shanklin to Luccombe and Bonchurch.

There are various ways of reaching Luccombe and Bonchurch from Shanklin, and whichever is taken the tourist will enjoy some of the finest scenery in the island. The path by the shore has been already noticed as very inviting; and the views commanded from the high road (see next Route) are so fine that they must not be readily given up, though the pathway which runs across the fields at a lower level, near the edge of the cliffs, is the more secluded and in some respects the more beautiful; and those who scale the Downs, and continuing along their crest descend upon Luccombe at the back of the copse, have the advantage of a still finer and more extensive view. Those who are staying at Shanklin or Bonchurch will of course try them all; the visitor who is merely passing through the island will best combine the advantages of each by taking the high road as far as the stile at the top of the hill, there descend to Luccombe, and after having viewed the Chine, continue to Bonchurch by the Landslip.

Route 57. Shanklin to Luccombe and Bonchurch by the Fields and Landslip.

Path—Luccombe Chine—Bowlwood—Along Shore to Bonchurch—Landslip—Mr. Webster's Account—Scenery.

This, as we have just said, is perhaps the most agreeable route. We may either take the hollow lane deep sunk in its red sandy banks draped with ferns, at the head of the Chine, which soon introduces us to the field path, or enter the meadows by a farm road which crosses the upper ravine of the Chine nearly opposite the parsonage, shaded with noble elms. After crossing one or two pleasant fields with glorious views of the dusky cliffs sweeping round Sandown Bay to the Culvers, the path enters upon a rough tract

thrown about into swelling mounds, which becomes wilder and more precipitous as we approach *Luccombe*. The view of the richly-wooded ravine, and the inlet upon which it opens, is very fine; the colouring of the cliffs is rich and varied, and their forms are singularly broken, while the foreground with its cottages, tangled furze bushes, and decaying ash trees (on which the botanist will notice with interest the black leathery balls of the *Spheria concentrica*), is one of singular beauty, especially in the spring, when the ground is a carpet of primroses, violets, and blue hyacinths.

The Chine at Luccombe.

though inferior to that of Shanklin, is well worth visiting. It is, like that, a chasm worn in the red and yellow ferruginous sands by a little streamlet, which bursting out where the "upper greensand" meets the retentive "gault," trickles down to the shore over a rocky bed too wide for the generally scanty rill, and by its bareness somewhat marring the general effect. This chasm, which is left in its natural wildness, differs from that of Shanklin in having no windings; it is merely a semi-elliptical bowl shelving down to the shore, one side being nearly bare, the other covered with profuse foliage arching over the bed of the rivulet. A picturesque cottage residence stands at its head, and adds a real ornament to the scene. A very steep foot-track leads down the Chine to a shelf or terrace formed of the débris of the upper strata, which are of the loosest character, on which, some eight or ten feet above the waves, is perched a group of rude fishermen's huts (known as *Bowlwood*), with their picturesque adjuncts of nets and lobster-pots, boats and capstans. A path leads past the huts, beneath the crumbling cliff, and descending on the shore at Steel Bay mounts again and joins the path through the Landslip near its western extremity. Picturesque as this path is, those who take it miss the most romantic portion of the Landslip; it is not, therefore, to be recommended to those who can only pass this way once.

Returning, therefore, up the short but toilsome ascent, and

passing *Luccombe Chine Cottage* (—— Francis, Esq.) and *Rose Cliff* (E. Frere, Esq.), between which a stile and path to the right communicate with the high road above, the tourist enters the exquisite scenery of

The Landslip at East End,

which has received an additional charm from the Rev. W. Adams's beautiful tale of the "Old Man's Home." The romantic wildness of this tract is due to a series of landslips, of which the earliest probably formed a part of the great convulsion by which the whole range of cliffs from Luccombe to Blackgang was laid bare, while the latest of any extent, carrying away 30 and 50 acres respectively, date from 1810 and 1818. Mr. Webster, who visited it in 1811, shortly after the former landslip, describes it in terms which will appear strange to those who are fresh from the enjoyment of its picturesque beauty. "I was surprised," he says, "at the scene of devastation, which seemed to have been occasioned by some recent convulsion of nature. A considerable portion of the cliff had fallen down, strewing the whole ground between it and the sea with its ruins; huge masses of solid rock started up amidst heaps of smaller fragments, whilst immense quantities of loose marl, mixed with stones, and even the soil above with the wheat still growing on it, filled up the spaces between, and formed hills of rubbish which are scarcely accessible. Nothing had resisted the force of the falling rocks. Trees were levelled with the ground, and many lay half buried in the ruins. The streams were choked up, and pools of water were formed in many places. Whatever road or path formerly existed through this place had been effaced, and with some difficulty I passed over this avalanche, which extended many hundred yards.

"Proceeding eastwards, the whole of the soil seemed to have been moved, and was filled with chasms and bushes lying in every direction. The intricate and rugged path became gradually less distinct, and soon divided into mere sheep tracks, leading into an almost impenetrable thicket. I perceived, however, on my left hand the lofty wall of rock

which belonged to the same stratum as the Undercliff, softened in its rugged character by the foliage which grew in its fissures, and still preserving some remains of its former picturesque beauty. Neglect and the unfortunate accident which had lately happened had now altered the features of this once delightful spot, and I was soon bewildered among rocks, streams of water, tangling rocks and briars."

It is almost needless to say that "this once delightful spot" has not only regained all its former beauty, but has acquired fresh charms through the very "accident" of which Webster so feelingly complains. Nature,

"softening and concealing,
And busy with her hand of healing,"

has clad the ruins in a garment of loveliness. The chasms and dells, the slopes and the precipices, are all alike adorned with trees and shrubs, and ferns and wild flowers. The rocks are rich in mosses and lichens, and there are few better collecting grounds for the lovers of these minute but beautiful floral treasures.

On crossing the stile beyond Rose Cliff the path enters a tangled thicket, with a depth of shade delicious on a summer's day by contrast with the exposed walk from Shanklin. The tangled brake on either side of the path is broken with grey fragments of rock half concealed by bright green mosses and festoons of ivy and woodbine, precipitated from the cliffs above, of which a glimpse is every now and then obtained through the foliage. After a time the ground suddenly falls, and the copse diminishing in thickness, a striking prospect unexpectedly presents itself. To the right the cliffs rise to a height of 150 feet, with huge masses, like ruined bastions, tossed wildly about and leaning at various angles against the still unbroken range of which they once formed a part, and from which they have been rent by their own weight on the subsidence of the stratum on which they rested. In front the eye ranges over a chaotic scene of shattered rocks, precipitous ridges, and swelling mounds, now overgrown with underwood and covered with the richest verdure to the left is the limitless ocean, whose

smooth blue expanse forms a lovely contrast to the wild scene of verdant confusion around.

“ Wide as was here the desolation, wide
Is now the beauty showered from side to side :
Wild thyme and heath-flower hither draw the bee,
Out of the turf *Euphrasia*, bright-eyed,
Peeps ; and the yellow vetch and purple pea
Bloom ; and the Traveller’s Joy trails over rock and tree.”

PERL’S *Fair Island*.

The lover of nature will not be content with keeping to the beaten path, but will wander at will,—as happily he still may—by the rough tracks which lead over the rifted rocks, and through the tangled hazel thickets, discovering fresh beauties at every step. He should by all means make his way to the base of the cliffs, where only the size of the huge masses of rock which have been rent bodily from the parent hill can be appreciated, and an estimate formed of the enormous force which hurled them from their height. Between these fallen masses and the rocks which retain their position are deep dark rifts and chasms, draped with the clematis and ivy, and the long polished fronds of the bright green hart’s tongue, into which the young and active should not fail to scramble. Gradually, as we approach Bonchurch the ground becomes less broken and rocky, fresh stone walls intrude their unwelcome presence in the native loveliness of the scene: traces of man’s power to mar what he is powerless to create become more and more evident, until the glebe is reached, where the yellow and red sand cliffs are fast crumbling down into *Monks’ Bay*. The picturesque little old church is passed, and we find ourselves in the high road to Ventnor, at the foot of the Bonchurch Shute. (See p. 208).

Route 58. Shanklin to Luccombe and Bonchurch, by the Road.

The Bridge and Dell—Ascent—View—Combe—Luccombe Farm—
Chine—Descent to Bonchurch—White Shute.

Shanklin is but little more than 2 miles from Bonchurch, but between the two lies the great headland of Dunnose,

rising to a height of 771 feet; and though the road has been formed over the lowest practicable portion of the ridge, the ascent is so steep that the drive might be tedious were it not for the unrivalled prospects it commands, which, varying with every turn in the road, forbid our wishing it any shorter. Leaving the little church on the right, and pausing a minute on the bridge to look down into the dell below, with its graceful ferns, and waving shrubs, and delicious depth of cool shade, (through the bed of which, a little higher up, the road passed not very many years ago,) we wind our way up the steep flank of the ridge, with a pleasant copse to our right, where in the early summer the display of red campion, blue hyacinths, white ramsons, and other brilliantly contrasted flowers, is gorgeous beyond description, and on our left, a broad sloping field, *the Shanklin Cowleas*, across which a shorter and steeper path leads to the summit of the hill. Drivers are in the habit of requesting visitors to walk across this field; and no one will regret having relieved the jaded horses of his weight, for not only are the views most magnificent, but the wild-flowers, primroses, cowslips, anemones, lady-smocks, violets, orchises, cow-wheat, red rattle, &c., which spangle the pasture according to the season, are poured forth with a rich profusion, delighting both sight and smell.

The prospect from this ascent is one of the finest of the many remarkable views in the island. In the foreground lies the fast increasing village of Shanklin embowered in groves, with the taper-spire of the Church rising from the trees at the base of the hill, and the picturesque parsonage a little beyond; to the right sweeps the noble curve of Sandown Bay, with its ochreous cliffs contrasting finely in their hues and rugged outlines with the solid headland of the Culvers, with its vertical face of chalk, towering sheer out of the azure waters. Over the lowland of Sandown we see Brading Haven and the hills about Ryde, with the anchorage of Portsmouth and its shipping, and the far-off blue heights of Hampshire and Sussex, with the spire of Chichester Cathedral pointing heavenwards, stretching in a dim line eastwards towards Brighton and Beachy Head,

both of which are sometimes visible on clear days. To the west the eye ranges over an undulating tract, broken by the isolated knoll of Queen Bower, the dark fir plantations on Apse Heath, and the white spire of New Church, to the swelling ridge of the Central Downs.

On reaching the summit, where a stile and footpath lead down to Luccombe Farm and Chine, the road turns a shoulder of the hill, and enters upon a semioval basin, open to the sea to the east, but enclosed on the other three sides by the downs, continually increasing in steepness as we wind round the curve, until they ascend above us like a wall. Snugly sheltered at the bottom of the bowl-shaped combe lies the picturesque homestead of *Luccombe*—once forming part of the wide possessions of the Monks of Quarr, valued at 8*l.* in money immediately before the Dissolution—with its stacks, and barns, and long roofs all on fire with golden lichens, reposing beneath the branches of noble ashes on the steep-hill side; further down the combe, pretty cottages stud the brink of the *Chine*, which may be conveniently visited from this spot, the tourist either returning to his carriage, which may without the slightest risk descend the hill to the farm, or continuing his walk to Bonchurch by the Landslip. (See preceding Route.)

Rounding the southern corner of the valley, we find ourselves on a narrow shelf, with the precipitous down on one hand and the abrupt cliffs of the Landslip on the other; and at so great an elevation that our eye leaps over the whole intervening tract, and we appear suspended immediately above the sea, and at times advancing directly into it, without any clear idea how we are to descend from our giddy height. But formidable as the descent of the “White Shute” still appears to those accustomed to a level country, and perilous as it once really was, there being “some still living, who in their younger days deemed a visit to the Under-cliff by this route a matter of adventure,” (*Dr. Martin*) there is not the smallest cause of apprehension for the most nervous. Heavily laden four-horse coaches daily dash down the declivity with scarcely a slackening of their speed, and an accident is a thing unheard of. We pass

the cottages and villas of Upper Bonchurch; and catching the first glimpse of the jagged weather-stained cliffs, with the dark green ivy growing out of every fissure, that give their name to the district of the *Undercliff* on which we are now entering, and of the town of Ventnor with its taper-spire, and the Italian-looking outline of "St Boniface Villa" standing out prominently beyond, further still, the round-topped headland of Woody Point, are safely deposited at the door of the excellent Bonchurch Hotel, which we may do well to make our head-quarters for a week or so to come. (See Route 60.)

Route 59. Shanklin to Bonchurch and Ventnor, by the Downs.

This is a truly glorious walk; there is an exhilarating feeling aroused at these elevations, while the ever-changing prospects are such as would take away all sense of weariness were the distance far greater and the ascent more toilsome. The Downs are accessible from many points. After having visited Cook's Castle (p. 198) the tourist may strike southwards, and mounting the ridge, continue along it till he finds a practicable descent to Bonchurch or Ventnor. The equestrian may take the bridle path by Cliff Farm and Apse Reach, or the first gate to the right beyond the Shanklin turnpike, and descend to Bonchurch behind the Luccombe copse, or to Ventnor at the head of the zigzags. The road to the right at the top of the Shanklin Hill is another and more easy way of approach. If we are bound for Bonchurch on foot, we must keep to the left of the turf fence on the ridge of the Down above the Luccombe valley, at the extremity of which we shall suddenly come upon a view no less striking for its beauty than for the unexpected manner in which it bursts upon us. The descent of the down requires care, especially in summer when the turf is slippery, but it is facilitated by steps cut on the precipitous slope. In former days we are told the shepherd boys were wont to dart down the steep on a horse's skull, piloting themselves with their staff. At the foot of the slope a foot path to the right leads over the swelling folds of the

down to Ventnor; descending a little further we reach a private road, from which rugged and precipitous paths wind through the rifts in the cliffs to the terrace below. A cart track leads straight along the ridge of the downs to the road above Ventnor, which however the pedestrian may reach more rapidly by diverging a little to the left, and keeping on the south side of the long sinuous valley known as the *Combe*. (Ventnor, see Route 61.)

CHAPTER VI.

BONCHURCH, VENTNOR, NITON, AND THE UNDERCLIFF.

Route 60. Bonchurch.

61. Ventnor.

Excursions from Ventnor.

- 62. To Horseshoe Bay, Bonchurch, Luccombe, and Shanklin, by the Cliff.
- 63. To the Shanklin Road, by the White Path on St. Boniface Down, and returning by the Landslip.
- 64. The Eastern Downs to Shanklin, Cook's Castle, Apse, Whetely Bank, or Wroxall.
- 65. The Western Downs to Whitwell and St. Lawrence.
- 66. The Western Downs, by Rew and Span, to Stenbury, Nettlecombe, and Whitwell, with continuation to St. Catherine's Down and Blackgang or Niton.
- 67. To Appuldurcombe and Godshill, and return by Shanklin, or by Bleak Down, Niton, or Chale.

The Undercliff.

- 68. Along the Sea Cliff to St. Lawrence, Puckaster Cove, and Rocken End.
- 69. Along the top of the Upper Cliff to Pelham Woods, St. Lawrence, and Niton.
- 70. To Steephill, St. Lawrence, Woolverton (*détour* by Whitwell Shute to Whitwell, &c.), St. Rhadegund's Path and Cripple Path, Old Park, Mirables, The Orchard, Puckaster Cove, *Sandrock Hotel*, Wreath Bay and Victoria Hotel, St. Catherine's Terrace and Lodging Houses, Niton, St. Catherine's Down.

Route 60. Bonchurch.

Former State—Change—Houses—Climate—Distinguished Residents—Gardens and Grounds necessarily Private—Hotel, Lodgings—Pulpit Rock—Shute—Church: Painted Glass, Font—Old Church: Churchyard, Tombs—Glebe—Monks' Bay—Cascade—Landing of the French—Chevalier d'Eulx—Walks: Shepherd's Lane, Flagstaff Rock, Pond, Horseshoe Bay—Roads into Ventnor: Madeira Road, Old Road—St. Boniface House—Parson's Acre—Wishing Well—Population—Admiral Hopson.

A VERY few years since hardly any spot in England surpassed Bonchurch in picturesque beauty. The hand of

nature had done so much to adorn, and the hand of man so little to spoil it, that it merited every encomium which successive generations of tourists lavished upon it. The few houses which had been erected were mostly low thatched cottages entirely in unison with the scenery, and the whole formed a scene of the most fairy-like loveliness. Sterling characterises it in 1828 as the "best possible earthly fairy-land, combining all the varied and fanciful beauty of enchantment, with the highest degree of domestic comfortable reality." Now, however, it is much and necessarily changed; the increase of building which was essential to enable more to enjoy its beauties and to benefit by the salubrity of its climate, has greatly altered the character of the place; it has lost its air of rural retirement, the thatched cottage has given place to the smart slated villa; hedgerows, and delicious green banks, deep in moss, and waving with ferns and creepers, have stiffened into grey stone walls; trees have been felled, footpaths stopped up, shops built; and lovely as Bonchurch still is, it is not what it once was, and they who love it best cannot but fear that the construction of a railroad, which must sooner or later break in upon its sylvan solitude, will work a still further and more lamentable change.

The houses of Bonchurch, though not quite deserving Sterling's commendation of being "without exception in the very style a poet would have imagined, and a painter designed," are, on the whole, not uncommendable. There is an absence of formality and uniformity which is very pleasing. They lie scattered about, each unlike its neighbours, in sheltered nooks, backed by walls of rock, shielded from cold winds and open to the sun, with noble views of the sea, the dash of whose waves reaches the ear only as a pleasant murmur. The mildness of the climate is fully proved by the tender plants which adorn the gardens and cover the walls and verandahs of the houses. Myrtles and fuchsias everywhere abound, and almost grow into trees, flourishing year after year unharmed by the frost. The coronilla with its yellow corymbs, the lemon-scented ver-bena, the clianthus with its lobster-like branches of scarlet

flowers, and other exotics, decorate every garden, and call for no care beyond the pruning of their luxuriant shoots.

Bonchurch may be termed figuratively, though not geographically, "the West End" of Ventnor. From their close contiguity and similarity of climate and natural features, the two places may for all practical purposes be considered one; but with this difference, that while few of the higher classes have taken up their permanent abode at Ventnor, which depends almost entirely on an ever-varying succession of visitors, Bonchurch, with its larger houses, greater affluence of shade, and beautiful gardens, has attracted a considerable number of residents, especially among those for whom a mild climate is desirable. Some of these have conferred a literary celebrity on this once insignificant village, and made the name of Bonchurch a household word wherever their works are known. The highly gifted *William Adams*, the author of the "Shadow of the Cross," "The Distant Hills," &c., resided at Winterbourne, immediately behind the old church, where he died Jan. 17, 1848. *Miss Elizabeth Sewell*, who has conferred so great a benefit on the young of the present generation by her invaluable tales, "Amy Herbert," "Laneton Parsonage," "The Experience of Life," &c., resides at Seaview, on the Upper Terrace. Uppermount is the abode of the *Rev. James White*, who, after having lent a dramatic interest to the annals of his native Scotland, has in his later works ("The Eighteen Christian Centuries," "History of France," &c.) invested the study of history with the most vivid attraction. Underrock is the home of Mr. *Edmund Peel*, whose poem "The Fair Island" illustrates with refined taste the scenery and traditions of our Isle.

Beautiful as Bonchurch appears to the passing traveller, its full loveliness cannot be appreciated without visiting the gardens attached to the various private residences; and it may cause some disappointment to find that in most cases admission to them is so rigidly denied. A very little consideration, however, will show the necessity of this apparent exclusiveness. During the summer months the visitors to Bonchurch and its neighbourhood are to be

reckoned by thousands, and since if one were admitted, there is no reason why any should be shut out, all privacy would at once be destroyed, and the occupants of the houses exposed to much annoyance, if their gates were thrown open to all comers. A sense of propriety will naturally lead visitors to respect the rule which necessity, not inclination, has laid down; and however great the temptation, to refrain from intruding without permission.

In consequence of the strictly private character of the grounds, we need not descant on their varied and picturesque beauties: though if, by special introduction, the tourist is sufficiently fortunate to gain admission to the grounds of Dr. Leeson, at the *Maples* and *Pulpit Rock*—Admiral Swinburne, at *Eastdene*,—or those attached to *Uppermount* and *Orchardleigh*, he will discover that, however highly Bonchurch may have been praised, the reality surpasses the description.

Lodgings.

Though many of the principal houses at Bonchurch are occupied permanently, there are several which invite the visitor to sojourn a while in the midst of so much beauty. Some of these are suited to the requirements of large households, and are often occupied by families of distinction. Particulars may be obtained from Mr. *Jolliffe* of Bonchurch, or from the Ventnor house agents.

Hotels.

Ribband's Hotel has acquired a well-deserved reputation as one of the best and most comfortable in England, and “offers an admirable winter retreat to such as are indisposed to incur the trouble of housekeeping.” (*Dr. Martin.*) It has recently been enlarged, and we trust its former character for cleanliness, comfort, and moderate charges will be fully maintained. The grounds at the back command some fine views, and the Downs may be reached from them by a rough rock staircase. The prospect from above is very singular: owing to the sudden fall of the ground and the thickness of the foliage, nearly all the

houses are concealed, and were it not for a chimney or a gable peeping out, their presence would be unknown. The view from the summit of the Downs is of course still more extensive and striking.

Several of the houses along the terrace enjoy the same privilege of scaling the cliffs by one of the rifts which seam their rugged face; there is also a public path at the back of "Woodbine Cottage," but it is so steep, and so disgracefully neglected, that it is almost perilous, and not to be attempted by any but expert clamberers.

The carriage road which passes the hotel is a *cul-de-sac*; only affording access to the villas of the Upper Terrace: but pedestrians may continue towards Ventnor along a narrow "Balaam's path," terminating in a steep flight of 101 steps, communicating with the road below.

WALKS ABOUT BONCHURCH.

One of the most striking objects in the general view of Bonchurch is the *Pulpit Rock*, a rugged semi-detached mass of the Upper Greensand, jutting out boldly beyond the general profile of the cliff, and surmounted with a rustic cross.*

From the hotel, the road to Ventnor winds down the steep *shute*, and passing the new parsonage on the left, and the lovely cottage of *Cliffden* on the right, a few steps bring the visitor to

The Church.

An iron gate admits you to the churchyard, which has few rivals for picturesque beauty in England. Some of the memorials are of an appropriate Christian character, and we trust that the example may be followed in any additions to their number. The church (St. Boniface, Rev. E. Carr, *R.*, Ferry, arch.), is a plain but well-proportioned edifice in the Norman style. The first stone was

* Its name was first given, and the cross erected, some fifty years since by the present Sir W. Heathcote (M.P. for the University of Oxford), and the Hon. and Rev. Arthur Percival, late chaplain in ordinary to the Queen, when passing a vacation with Sir John Awdry, at St. Boniface House.

laid, June 24, 1847, by the Rev. William Adams, (himself a liberal contributor both with his pen and his purse towards its erection,) who, before its consecration (Dec. 11, 1848), had passed away from the scene of his labours and entered into rest.

The church consists of a nave and chancel, divided by a fine Norman arch, and a north transept, provision being made for the erection of one to the south when needed. At the west end is a gable containing a single bell. The interior is solemn and church-like. The eastern triplet and bull's-eye above are filled with very fair stained glass of a memorial character by Wailes. The windows in the transept and at the west end contain some admirable full-length figures of apostles in ancient glass, the gift of the Rev. W. Sewell, D.D. The font was a tribute to the memory of Mr. Adams. Before leaving the churchyard, the visitor should go as far as he can to the south, for the sake of the striking view of the range of cliffs above, and the villas peeping out from their nests of green.

A few steps further down the hill bring us to the *Schools*, a most pleasing little building standing on a rocky shelf high above the road, the gift to the parish of Rear-Admiral and Lady Jane Swinburne.

Here the road to Ventnor turns to the right; that to the left, which we will take, passes the lodge of *East Dene*, the seat of Admiral Swinburne, and leads by a once lovely lane, now disfigured by high stone walls, to

The Old Church,

a low grey building shadowed by spreading elms, whose venerable outline continually invites the pencil of the artist. Tradition tells that it owes its foundation to Johannes de Argentine, a Norman to whom William Fitz-Osborne gave the demesne of Bonchurch, who, having obtained permission from Walkelyn, Bishop of Winchester, separated it from Brading and erected the present building as a parish church for himself and his tenants. Walkelyn became Bishop of Winchester in 1070, a period with which the style of the building accords. All the windows are of later date, but

the chancel arch and south door are rude unadorned examples of the earliest Norman. The bell turret has been erected since Tomkins took his view in 1794. Within there is nothing of interest beyond some mouldering remains of fresco painting on the north wall, discovered beneath the plaster in 1849. The oaken cross was placed above the altar by Mr. Surman, the former proprietor of East Dene, who had purchased it, together with other oak carvings, for the decoration of his house.

The churchyard is one to which we may apply Shelley's words (Preface to "*Adonais*") in reference to the Protestant Cemetery at Rome, "covered," like this, "with violets and daisies:" and feel that "it might make one in love with death to think one should be buried in so sweet a place." Here, beneath "the Shadow of the Cross," reposes *William Adams*. Nearer the wall to the west is the grave of the highly gifted *John Sterling*, whose melancholy history is so well known from the biographies by Hare and Carlyle. He died at Hillside, Ventnor, but was laid here, his brother-in-law, the Rev. F. D. Maurice, reading over his grave the Church's words of hope and comfort. Some of the recently erected memorials are singularly elegant, contrasting strongly with the grey ivy-clad stones which mark the resting-places of the rude fishermen of former days. It may not be unnecessary to inform the readers of the "*Old Man's Home*" that they will search in vain for the tomb of "*Robert Wakeling*" and his family, who are entirely creations of the author's fancy.

Below the church a broad green pasture field, formerly the glebe and open to all, slopes down to the sea, which is fast devouring its crumbling soil, and threatens, unless effectual measures are speedily taken for its protection, to sweep away the whole. The position of the old church is mentioned by Sir H. Englefield as "an evidence of the permanence of the steep slope on which it stands, during perhaps eight centuries;" but if safe from the devastation of another landslip, the waves are slowly but surely working its overthrow, and the next generation may see old Bonchurch sharing the fate of Dunwich and Reculvers, and sur-

viving only in tradition. A little stream bursting out beneath the wall of the churchyard tumbles over the cliffs in a pretty cascade, the beauty of which has been much lessened of late by the inroads of the sea. The cove below is known as *Monks' Bay*, from the tradition of the brothers of Lire having used it as their landing-place. In addition to its natural beauties this locality possesses some historical interest. Froude relates * that on the attempted invasion of the French in 1545 detachments were set on shore (July 19), at three different points of the coast of the Isle of Wight, Sea View, Sandown Bay, and a third place which he cannot identify. According to Sir J. Oglander, the third point was "Monks' Bay" at Bonchurch; and when standing on the ground it is easy to understand Froude's graphic description. M. de Thais having landed without resistance advanced into the island to reconnoitre, "entangled his party in a glen surrounded by thickets, and here was checked by a shower of arrows from invisible hands. The English, few in number but on their own ground, hovered about him, giving way when they were attacked, but hanging on his skirts and pouring death into his ranks from their silent bows, till prudence warned him to withdraw to the open sands." Oglander, however, asserts that the commander of the English force, when his men gave way, being short and fat, and unable to mount the steep slopes with sufficient speed, fell into the enemy's hands, and was carried on board their vessel, where he died of the plague, which speedily broke out among the number cooped up in the ill-ventilated hold.

The landing of Chevalier d'Eulx for a supply of fresh water, stated by Froude (p. 429) to have occurred at Shanklin Chine, took place, according to the same authority, at Bonchurch, where the ground is equally well fitted for the ambuscade in which he was caught and, with most of his party, slain. Oglander asserts also that the chevalier was buried in the churchyard at Bonchurch.

From this part the visitor may proceed (see p. 200) through

* Hist. of Engl. iv. 425.

the wild beauties of the Landslip to *Luccombe Chine*, and descending the Chine return either by the beach, a somewhat rough walk, or by a cliff path, re-entering the Landslip near its Bonchurch extremity; he may also descend into *Horseshoe Bay*, and ascending again continue along the verge of the Chalk Cliff to Ventnor.

Returning to the high road, formerly called "*Shepherd's Lane*," running between high banks rich in ferns and creepers, and overshadowed with noble elms, but which has now lost much of its picturesque beauty, we pass on the right the lodge of *Upper Mount* (Rev. J. White), and on the left that of *Under Mount* (Sir J. Pringle, Bart.), the house being entirely concealed by a vertical wall of rock, on the summit of which stands a striking isolated mass known as the *Flagstaff Rock*, or, from the former owner of the property, *Hadfield's Look-out*; a tunnel through the rocky barrier gives access to the house. We have now reached the old village of Bonchurch, of which some half dozen low thatched cottages still remain, embowered in myrtle and fuchsia, a lovely object for the pencil of the artist, though ugly square modern houses and shops have sadly marred it. The road passes a pretty wayside pool, formed some years since from a swampy osier bed, which for generations supplied materials for the lobster-pots of the fishermen, who a century since were the sole inhabitants of Bonchurch. Here the visitor will do well to pause to admire the singular beauty of the view; the road is in deep shadow, the opposite side of the pool is ornamented with a quickly rising hanging wood, where the sombre hue of the Scotch fir is beautifully contrasted with the lighter green of the sycamore and elm, draped with the long festoons of the Traveller's Joy, robing the trees it embraces with a mantle of gossamer. Beyond, set in a framework of overarching green, a pretty gabled cottage nestles beneath the cliff, with a high green shoulder of down towering steeply behind — "the gem of our island gem."

Opposite to the pond a road leads past the tasteful villas of *Orchardleigh*, *Woodlynch* (Right Hon. Sir Lawrence Peel), *Westfield*, and *Mountfield* (Rev. J. Willey) to *Horse-*

shoe Bay. As we advance towards Ventnor we pass on the right the grounds of Dr. Leeson, (whose tall white gabled house (the *Maples*) towers above us at the western extremity of the upper terrace), through which a little stream, which has its source in a cave in the grounds of St. Boniface House, descends in tiny cascades. At the angle of the road, beneath a fine mass of rock, a fountain sends up its silvery column, which, however pretty in itself, seems out of place here, in the midst of so much natural beauty.

From this point the visitor has the choice of three entrances into Ventnor; (1.) the *high road* formed in 1842-3; (2.) the *upper road*, which was the only communication between Ventnor and Bonchurch till 1842, which diverges to the right, by *St. Boniface House and Terrace*; and (3.) the *Madeira Road*, which crossing the ridge to the left, runs parallel to the high road, which it joins at the entrance of the town. The lover of the picturesque should by all means take this last; the view of the whole range of the Bonchurch cliffs, with their villas and plantations, across the narrow trough-like valley is very striking as we ascend the hill, and contrasts remarkably with the noble sea view to which a turn in the road speedily brings us, while perhaps there is no point from which St. Boniface Down, rising in one steep green slope to the height of 783 feet, appears so majestic.

The upper road is also commendable. *St. Boniface House*, though greatly changed by the substitution of slates for thatch, and the loss of much of its wood, is still a pleasing object, and it has a certain degree of interest as the only house in Bonchurch or Ventnor beyond a mere labourer's hut which has any claim to antiquity. It was long the residence of Lieutenant-Colonel Hill, who displayed much taste in the disposition of the grounds, when all around was in its primitive wildness. In 1832 it was occupied for a few months by Wilberforce after the death of his daughter (Mrs. James), for whose sake the family had arranged to remove hither. "The Monday after she was taken," he writes to Mr. Babington, "we removed to St. Boniface, one of the most delightful of all possible retirements. The most romantic scenery, sheltered from every cold wind, and

abounding in the most delightful walks, both sea and inland. Really it was an oasis in the wilderness."

St. Boniface Down.

Immediately past St. Boniface a road leads up the Down—rough certainly, but the most accessible ascent without making a lengthened circuit. At the foot of the Down a plot of ground to the right of the road, forming part of the glebe of Bonchurch, is known as the *Parson's* or *Bishop's Acre*, concerning which a tradition is told of a certain bishop who, riding over the Downs, lost his way in a thick mist, and to his horror found himself on the brink of the precipitous face of the hill; not knowing what to do, he threw the reins on his horse's neck, who at once beginning to descend the steep slope, his rider gave himself up for lost, and invoking the aid of St. Boniface, vowed that if he reached the bottom in safety he would give an acre of ground to the church which bore his name. Either through the aid of the saint or through the sure-footedness of his steed, the bishop did reach the bottom of the hill with neck and limbs unbroken, and the Bishop's Acre is a lasting memorial of the perilous descent.

Such is the tale that has been told here time out of mind; and when we remember that this part of the island formed part of the original grant by Ceadwalla to Bishop Wilfrid, we see that some early successor of his probably had the power to make such a grant, and that the story does account, in a manner not altogether incredible, for the singular fact that this little rectangular plot, lying by itself in the midst of other property, and not even in the parish of Bonchurch, has belonged to its rector from time immemorial.

High up on the steep face of St. Boniface Down, not far from its summit, a white chalky patch in the turf marks the position of *St. Boniface* or the *Wishing Well*, interesting to the geologist from the remarkable fact of a spring bursting forth at so great an elevation, and to the lover of old superstitions from the reverence which it is said was formerly shown to it. The popular belief was, that if the well were

reached without once looking back, any wish formed while drinking the water would be certainly granted; and the story goes that the lads and lasses of the neighbourhood used to resort to the well on St. Boniface Day, to deck it with garlands of flowers, and that vessels were wont to lower their topmasts as they passed in view of the sacred spot. The visitor may if he choose test the powers of the well, though there are but few who would be disposed to adventure the ascent — always steep, and in dry weather when the turf is slippery, even perilous, at all; fewer still who could accomplish it without breaking the charm by casting a look behind him from the dizzy height.

Before leaving Bonchurch for its modern neighbour we may mention that the manor is one of those enumerated in Domesday, under the name of Bonecerce. It then belonged to William Fitz-Azor; having previously been one of Earl Godwin's manors, afterwards it was for many centuries in the possession of the Lisles, from whom it passed to the families of Dennis, and Popham, and Hill. The parish contains 618 acres, including 70 of water. The population was only 69 in 1801; in 1841 Bonchurch contained 302, and at the last census 523 souls.

Bonchurch is celebrated as the birthplace of one of our naval heroes, Admiral Sir Thomas Hopson, who when a wild slip of a lad ran away from the Niton tailor to whom the parish authorities had apprenticed the orphan boy, impelled by the seductive sight of a man-of-war cruising near, and volunteered before the mast. His hat being found on the beach, it was believed that he had been drowned. A story is told that shortly after his joining the ship, an engagement taking place, and the boy hearing that the battle must last till the white rag at the enemy's masthead was struck, he climbed up the rigging of his own ship, made his way to that of the enemy, and shrouded by the smoke tore down the flag, and returned in triumph to the deck. The enemy on noticing the loss were thrown into confusion, which was increased by the triumphant shouts of the English sailors, who speedily secured the victory. The commander, struck with the courage and decision exhibited

by the runaway apprentice, promoted him forthwith. However this may be, certain it is that he speedily rose in the service, becoming a lieutenant in 1672, a captain in 1678, and hoisting his admiral's pennant on board the Breda in 1689, being nicknamed "Admiral Snip" by those who knew his history. He was a gallant fellow, esteemed by James II., promoted by William, and knighted by Anne. In triumphs he heightened the glory of his country, in reverses he saved her from disgrace; and finally, in 1702, in the ship "Torbay," alone and unsupported, amid a *feu d'enfer* from the French and Spanish ships, broke the famous Vigo boom. On this occasion a fireship was sent against him, but, having been prepared hastily, many barrels of snuff had been left on board, which when she blew up smothered the flames, and saved the gallant admiral. On returning home from this exploit he was knighted, and retired from the service, and was returned M. P. for Newtown in 1705.

There is a well-known tale of his returning *incog.* to his former master the tailor, at Niton, and while he and his wife were at their wits' end how to entertain so grand a guest, making himself known by singing a ballad that had been a favourite with him in former years.*

VENTNOR.

Route 61. *Ventnor*.—Rise and Progress—Local Management—Position—Town: Streets, Hills, Cove, Esplanade—Choice of a Residence—Hotels—Places of Worship: St. Catherine's Church, Church of Holy Trinity—Chapels—Schools—Libraries, &c.—Market—Shops, &c.—Conveyances—Saddle-horses—Post Office—Electric Telegraph—Bathing—Shore—Pebbles—Fossils—Zoophytes—Boats—Climate.

Its Rise and Progress.

Thirty years since Ventnor was the smallest of small villages, consisting only of a group of low thatched fishermen's huts on the shore, an old mill perched on a crag high above the beach, on which the stream which turned it dashed in a picturesque cascade, forming one of the chief

* Athenæum, Dec. 11th, 1858; Campbell's "Lives of the Admirals."

attractions for visitors, a little thatched wayside inn, still known as the "Crab and Lobster," with one or two humble dwellings scattered around.* In 1828, writes Dr. Martin — to whose professional skill Ventnor owes so much of its well-deserved reputation as a sanitary retreat, and whose admirable monograph on "the Undercliff" should be in the hands of all who are intending to sojourn here — the mason employed in the erection of Steephill Castle built "Cove Cottage" (Sir Raymond Jarvis), between the Royal and Marine Hotels, and thus originated the new village. "Spring Cottage," at the top of Spring Hill, was next built, and this was quickly followed by "Sea Weed," "Sea View," and "High Bank," along the same road, which was then the only entrance to Ventnor from the east. "Bellevue" succeeded these, and the nucleus of the little place gradually enlarged; until in the course of about ten or twelve years it began to assume the form of a town. At this time, however, little had been done to secure the comfort or convenience of visitors; "the streets of Ventnor and mud were synonymous," and with the exception of the main road, they were "almost impassable to foot-passengers, and entirely so to carriages," so that "winter visitors were driven away to seek an asylum elsewhere, where they might enjoy the advantages of a mild climate without the sloughs and rugged roads the village then presented." In 1844 a bill for the improvement of the town was carried through parliament, by the aid of which the streets were widened, and the opprobrium of its mud done away; though there is still cause for complaint in the narrowness of the High Street, and the interrupted foot pavements, which render it impossible to walk through the town without continually crossing from side to side. The *Church*, whose spire forms so conspicuous an object in all views of the town, was built and endowed, together with the parsonage and schools, by John Hambrough, Esq. of Steephill Castle, and consecrated July 17th, 1837. In

* Wyndham in 1794 speaks of "the cleanly cots of the village of Ventnor."

1842-3 the present high road from the top of the High Street to Bonchurch was formed, and the access to Newport and the interior of the island facilitated, by the lowering of the old Shute from Hillside to the Quarry, and the formation of the zigzags behind the Royal Hotel. The Esplanade was formed in the Cove in 1848, at which time the low picturesque huts which are seen in many of the former engravings of Ventnor disappeared, making way for lodging houses which, however convenient, are *not* picturesque. Indeed little can be said in praise either of the general arrangement of the town or of the buildings which compose it. It is in fact a misnomer to speak of *arrangement* at all: the town was not laid out on any well-considered plan, but individuals were allowed to erect houses in any style they pleased, just where they chose; the result being, that one of the most picturesque sites along the whole coast has been irremediably spoilt, and that whatever well-directed efforts may now be made for its improvement, Ventnor can never be what once it might have been—a truly beautiful as well as most salubrious town. From whatever point Ventnor is approached, the want of foliage is felt, while the houses, scattered here and there without order or method, “appear to have just issued fresh from the mason’s yard, and to have been set on one side when finished, ready to be fixed on more appropriate situations as opportunity might occur.” (*Martin*, p. 12.) Some of the best and most sheltered positions have been overrun with dwellings of a low class, which present a foreground of meanness to the lovely views commanded from the upper parts of the town. In short, with all its natural beauties, and unrivalled advantages of climate and situation, few places offer so melancholy an example of an *occasion manqué* as Ventnor. Its history has been thus depicted by a graphic pen. “Ventnor has been most affected by the popularity of the Undercliff. Forty years ago it contained about half a dozen humble cottages, and until the publication of Sir James Clark’s work, (on ‘The Influence of Climate in the prevention and cure of chronic diseases,’) its few inhabitants were nearly all fishermen.

It was the most picturesque spot (?) along the coast. The platform was broken into several uneven terraces. The huge hills towered up aloft. Down to the broad smooth beach the ground ran in rough slopes, mingled with abrupt banks of rock, along which a brawling rivulet careered gaily towards the sea, and the few fishermen's huts gave a piquant rustic liveliness to all besides. The climate seemed most favourable, and the neighbourhood most agreeable to the invalid. In the open gardens of the cottages, myrtles and other tender plants flourished abundantly, and without need of protection even in winter: snow hardly ever lies on the ground; sunny and sheltered walks abound, and the beach is excellent for bathing. Ventnor at once caught the attention of the crowd of visitors; and it was one of the first places to provide them suitable accommodation. In the tiny fishing hamlet soon sprang up hotels, and boarding-houses, and shops, and a church, and Ventnor became the little capital of the Undercliff. Invalids came here for a winter retreat, as well as a summer visit. Speculation was stimulated. And now, as Fuller has it, 'the plague of building' lighted on it, and it spread until every possible spot was planted with some staring building or row of buildings. The variety of odd forms is most edifying. We have hotels, churches, shops, cottages, and villas, in every conceivable style and every outrageous shape. Strawberry Hill Gothic, Seaside Swiss, and Carpenters' palazzo; each has its representatives: and as Spenser says,

'each one
Of sundry shape, yet all ill-favoured.' * *

Its Advantages.

But with all its drawbacks of bad architecture, narrow winding streets, interrupted pavements, absence of seats for the invalids, want of foliage, and, which in these days of rapid locomotion is felt to be a very serious evil, difficulties of access, Ventnor presents so much that is attractive, in addition to its more substantial claims as "the English

* "Land we Live in," p. 269.

Madeira," that we are not surprised that the town has increased and is still increasing, and that it is thronged in the summer with the seekers after rest and recreation, as well as in winter by invalids. At the same time, if it is to maintain its popularity, the inhabitants of Ventnor must keep pace with the march of improvement elsewhere. Hastings, Torquay, and the youngest of them all, Bournemouth, are formidable rivals, and while they are inferior to Ventnor in many important respects as winter retreats for the invalid, it must be confessed that more has been done to promote his comfort and afford him recreation than has yet been accomplished here. The people of Ventnor must remember that there is a fashion in sanitary matters as in everything else; and unless they are content to witness the decadence of the town, and the loss of popular favour, more energetic and persevering efforts must be made for its general improvement, as well as for facilitating its communications with the mainland. The projected railroad, greatly as it is to be deprecated by every lover of the picturesque, will secure this last point, and enable Ventnor the better to compete with its rivals; and if the inhabitants are alive to the importance of the occasion, and determined on carrying out vigorous measures for the improvement of their pretty little town, Ventnor may hope not only to retain its hold on popular favour, but distance other competitors by which there is now some risk of its being surpassed.

The management of the local affairs is entrusted to a Board of Commissioners elected annually by the rate-payers. Under their auspices the town has been well drained, though much still remains to be done, especially in the district of the Cow Leas, before its sanitary condition is all that it ought to be. There is an abundant supply of excellent water from the copious springs which rise in the chalk at the top of Grove Hill. The works were completed in the autumn of 1857, at the cost of about 1300*l*. The population is estimated at not less than 3500; in 1841 it was 900, and in 1851 it amounted to 2569, and the number of inhabited houses was 435: more than the whole number of inhabitants in 1838, when it contained only 350 souls.

Situation.

The first appearance of Ventnor is very striking. It is geographically in the district of the *Undercliff*, but the range of mural cliffs from which that appellation is derived is here entirely wanting; its place being supplied by an exceedingly steep smooth chalk down, towering like a wall behind the town, to a height of between 700 and 800 feet, and effectually shielding it from the cold blasts from the north and east. The houses lie clustered about the base of this down, or mount its lower slopes, and in the centre of the town sweep down to the very water's edge. There is a sheltered valley, *the Grove*, stretching upwards from the church (where the picturesque cottage of Mrs. Hadfield preserves the memory of the Ventnor Farm of days long gone by), which contains some fine trees, among which the gables of *Elm Grove* (J. Haskins, Esq.), and the little Italian campanile of *Albion Grove* (T. Weston, Esq.), mounted high on the hill-side, peep out picturesquely. A little further to the east another grove of trees surrounds *Hillside* (Capt. Newall), on the Old Shute, which, originally erected as an hotel, became the residence of John Sterling in June 1843, and which still retains the "improvements and adjustments on a grand scale" (in Carlyle's words) of its highly-gifted owner, who died there, Sept. 18th, in the following year. Ventnor however, on the whole, is greatly wanting in shade, and the predominance of white stone and blue slate produces a glaring effect, which is painful to the eye.

The Town.

The town consists of one principal street, neither very wide nor straight, nor as well furnished with foot pavements as it ought to be, which under the names of *High Street*, *Church Street*, and *Belgrave Road*, reaches from the (late) Boniface Hotel at its eastern, to the Royal Hotel at its western extremity, rising and falling with the undulations of the ground. As we enter from Bonchurch, on our left rises *Longdown*, a fine position, commanding splendid views, irremediably spoilt by mean rows of squalid dwellings, be-

tween which and the sea lie *St. Catharine Street* and the *Cow Leas*, the main seat of the poorer population. High above us on our right are *St. Boniface Terrace* and the houses of *Spring Hill*, the old entrance to Ventnor, joining the High Street below the *Crab and Lobster*, in the centre of the town. *Albert Street* runs parallel with the High Street in its lower part, and communicates with it by *Victoria Street*, *Market Street*, and *Mill Street*, which last leads down to the shore and *Esplanade*. *Grove Hill* ascends from the Crab and Lobster, and joins the old Newport Road at the Quarry. The *Zigzags* behind the Royal Hotel mount the hill by a more gradual inclination, and afford the readiest communication with the interior of the island.

The Cove.

The most striking feature of Ventnor is the beautiful bowl-shaped Cove (a few years since a tangled dell, known as the *Chicken Pits*), in and around which the best and most sheltered houses are clustered. The view here is sufficiently singular, as the visitor looks down over the houses, perched tier above tier on a slope so steep that in some cases there is a difference of two storeys between the front and back, to the *Esplanade* below and the beach, with its boats and bathing-machines, and the waves breaking on the yellow shingle, or dashing over black seaweed-covered rocks. The road above, protected from the east winds by a huge fragment of rugged rock, overhanging its base so far as to raise considerable but altogether needless apprehensions in the minds of nervous passers-by, is the favourite promenade of the invalids,—delightful from its sunny exposure and cheerful prospect, but sadly curtailed of late by the short-sighted policy of private speculators, who have erected house after house, shutting out both sun and view.

The Esplanade,

which is reached either by Mill Street or by the steep descent from the Marine Hotel, both sufficiently formidable to the inexperienced, was formed in 1848. A range of newly-erected villas and a hotel offer desirable residences

to that class of invalids who require warmth and shelter, and to whom the immediate vicinity of the sea is an attraction. At the western extremity is the establishment known as the *Undercliff Baths*, which is susceptible of considerable improvement. A meridian line traced on the level surface of the Esplanade affords the visitor the opportunity of setting his watch at noon.

Choice of a Residence.

The delicate invalid will, as we have said, find the Cove and the houses which overlook it the most eligible residence; its attractiveness being increased by the loveliness of the situation, and its proximity to the sheltered walks and drives towards Steephill and St. Lawrence. According to Dr. Martin, "*St. Boniface Terrace* should be chosen by such as prefer a more bracing site," while "*Spring Hill* offers more shelter, though with one or two exceptions the accommodation is inferior." The houses on "*Grove Hill* are well placed, and the position well adapted to a large class of invalids." To the more robust, "*Madeira Vale* affords a retired and desirable retreat." The whole town being formed of lodging-houses of various grades in accommodation and charges, there can be no difficulty in the visitor suiting himself: though, if in search of health, it is of the utmost importance that his residence should be adapted to his own particular case, and on such a point the advice of one so experienced as Dr. Martin is invaluable. The chief *house agents* are Mr. *Spary*, at the Post-office, Mr. *C. Bull*, Alto House, and Mr. *Wicker*, High Street. The principal

Hotels

are the *Royal*, at the upper end of the town, and the *Marine*, overlooking the Cove, both under the able management of Mr. Bush, and to be highly recommended. On the beach is the *Esplanade* (Cumming). The *Crab and Lobster* still invites visitors with its low vine-trellised front, but the *St. Boniface* has subsided into private life, and announces itself to the world as *St. Boniface Villa*. At each of the hotels visitors are received for a lengthened period at

moderate weekly charges, but there are no regular boarding houses. One great want here is an *Invalids' Home*, on the plan of that established at Hastings, in memory of Miss Priscilla Maurice (authoress of *Sickness, its Trials and Blessings*), where ladies might enjoy the comforts of a home, with the advantages of freedom from care, cheerful society, and good nursing, in those cases which are so frequent where the calls of duty or other circumstances render it impossible for an invalid to be accompanied by her family.

Churches.

Ventnor, like Ryde, is within the parochial limits of New Church. Cromwell's Commissioners in 1656 recommended its union with Bonchurch, but the Restoration prevented the carrying out of their recommendation, and until the erection of the church, through the munificence of Mr. Hambrough, in 1836-7, Ventnor was entirely dependent for religious advantages on the adjacent parishes, or the exertions of various sects of Dissenters.

St. Catherine's Church (Rev. J. Marland, *P. C.*) is of the ordinary type of church built twenty years since; as good as most, and better than many of the date, but such as we can look on with little satisfaction now. It consists of a broad aisle-less nave, lighted by long gaunt lancets, with galleries round three sides, a chancel added in 1849, and a tower and spire, the most pleasing feature of the whole, at the west end. The architect's name—it would be unkind to record it were he any worse than his contemporaries—was Ebbels. The eastern triplet, amidst a strange incongruous medley of old and new painted glass, contains some fragments deserving attention, especially some brilliant red and green seraphim. The font, which had been forgotten in the original design, and noble organ, are recent additions.

A new church, to be dedicated to the *Holy Trinity*, is being built at the eastern extremity of the parish, through the liberality of an unknown benefactor, with the stipulation that Divine service is performed in it daily, and all the seats are free. The design, in the Early Decorated style, is furnished by Mr. Giles of Taunton.

Chapels.

Ventnor contains several chapels belonging to various denominations of Dissenters; but that of the Independents or Congregationalists, in the High Street, erected in 1853–4 from the designs of Mr. Raffles Brown of Liverpool, at a cost of 1800*l.* is the only one with any architectural pretensions. This is a decidedly handsome building in the Gothic style, with a rich flamboyant window towards the street, and an open arcade below; the gable being terminated by a niche, apparently intended for either bell or statue, but at present untenanted. It contains a good organ, and is handsomely fitted up within. The lower storey contains schools. The present minister is the Rev. W. Warden.

The other chapels are—the *Wesleyan* in Albert Street, the Rev. J. Jutsum; *Reformed Wesleyan*, in High Street; *Bible Christians* in Catherine Street, Rev. — Tonkin. The *Plymouth Brethren* meet in a room on Tulse Hill; and a body of Seceders from the Congregationalists in the lecture room of the Institute.

Schools.

The National Schools lately erected in Albert Street, on a site given by Mr. Hambrough, are among the most conspicuous ornaments of the town. The front, which is an extensive one, comprises teachers' residences in the centre, with a boys' school-room to the east, and an infant school-room, with one for girls above, to the west. All three are noble, well-proportioned rooms, and the whole design reflects much credit on the architect, C. Turner, Esq., of Southampton. The central doorway, with its dark serpentine shaft and richly carved corbel, is a beautiful feature. The schools form a noble monument of the Christian zeal of the incumbent, and the liberality with which his plans for the good of his parishioners have been seconded.

The schools of the Congregationalists occupy the lower storey of the new chapel.

Libraries, &c.,

and the other appendages of a watering place, are not wanting: *Moor's Marine Library*, opposite the Church, *Spary's*, at

the Post office, *Knight's & Butler's* in the High Street, may be mentioned; all but the last have reading rooms attached, supplied with daily and weekly papers and other periodicals. At *Alto House*, overlooking the Cove, is a *Billiard Table*. In the Lecture Hall belonging to the *Literary and Scientific Institute* musical and other entertainments are given from time to time, and lectures delivered during the winter season.

Market, Shops, &c.

A small market was erected in 1856, from designs by Mr. F. Newman of Ryde. It is a red brick Elizabethan building with a glass roof.

The *shops* are good and handsome; well supplied with everything that can be required by inhabitants or visitors. The prices are not exorbitant, considering the additional cost of carriage; nor is Ventnor on the whole a more expensive residence than other watering places. Coals always command high prices, in consequence of the dangerous nature of the anchorage, and the consequent risk of accident; provisions and other articles of household consumption are a little dearer than on the mainland; poultry is abundant and not expensive; milk excellent; fish for the most part comes from London, and is none the better or cheaper for the journey. The projected railroad, if carried into effect, will do much to equalise prices, and will, it is hoped, repay by some substantial advantages the necessary evils consequent on its construction.

Coaches, Flies, &c.

Daily coaches run between Ventnor and Ryde, and Newport and Cowes, varying in number and in the hours of starting with the season of the year and the times of the steamers and trains. In the summer a coach makes several journeys daily between Blackgang and Ventnor and back, traversing the whole of the Undercliff, and the coach which leaves for Cowes in the afternoon takes the same route. The booking office is at the Marine Hotel.

There is no lack of vehicles for hire, from the large capacious fly, capable of conveying an indefinite number

of passengers and almost any amount of luggage, to the light phaeton, open pony chaise, or Bath chair. The principal letters of carriages are—*Briant*, *Herridge*, and *Farrow*, High Street, and *Young*, Mill Street. Mr. Briant also keeps a large stud of *saddle horses*, and may be recommended as a most obliging and experienced riding master. The terms for carriages are those already given (see p. 14). Saddle horses 2s. 6d. per hour, 15s. per day.

Donkeys are also to be hired, and though most in favour with children, are not to be despised by adults in mounting the steep hills. *Sheath*, in Albert Street, boasts of “the original Donkey Depôt.”

The Post Office

is at “Spary’s Library,” at the bottom of Church Street. There are two deliveries of letters every day except Sunday (when there is only one) at 7 A.M. and 6·45 P.M.; but only one despatch, at 5·50 P.M. Few localities require a double despatch more than Ventnor, since from the peculiar circumstances of its winter residents occasions too often occur when the speedy transmission of a letter is of vital importance; and it is greatly to be regretted that hitherto the Post-Office authorities have denied the boon. The morning mail, at 9·45 A.M., only goes to Newport and Southampton. The extension of the *Electric Telegraph* to Ventnor will be of incalculable advantage to its residents.

The Shore, Bathing, Boating, &c.

The shore at Ventnor descends with such an easy slope that it is well adapted for bathing, except at extreme low water; and there is a sufficient supply of bathing machines, though, strange to say, their owners have as yet neglected to provide any assistance for the nervous and feeble, in the shape of bathing women or guides. One or two lives have been nearly lost from the want of this essential accompaniment of a bathing place, the back-draught being often strong enough to carry persons off their legs, and place them in considerable peril. Warm baths may be enjoyed at two establishments on the Esplanade.

The shore in the Cove is covered with fine shingle, consisting of rounded siliceous fragments of a great variety of colour, though with a predominance of those of a ferruginous hue, among which lurk small fragments of transparent quartz, susceptible of a fine polish, known as *Ventnor Diamonds*; the search for which is a favourite occupation with the idle. The larger pebbles occasionally supply fine specimens of Agate, Chalcedony, and Jasper, and of the petrified Polype known as the Choanite. Billings, in the High Street, has a good collection of the treasures of the shore, and may be depended on for a trustworthy opinion of the value of stones submitted to his judgment.

A century back, according to information received by Mr. Webster, the shore here was covered with firm sand, the shingle not extending to the east of Rocken End. The probable source of the shingle is in the immense beds near Hurst Castle, from which it has been carried eastward by the tides, which are said to have been less rapid in former days, owing to the projection of points of land and reefs which have been gradually worn away by the action of the waves.

The shore on either side of the Cove is strewn with huge fragments of rock, which render walking laborious and disagreeable. The geologist, however, may here find some good specimens of Ammonites and other fossils in the fallen blocks, and the naturalist may obtain a variety of Anemones, *B. Crassicornis*, *Anthea Cereus* of many hues, as well as the common *A. Mesembryanthemum*, to stock his aquarium. Matthew Hale, of St. Catherine Street, is much to be recommended as an intelligent companion, whether the object of search be living organisms or the fossil remains of those of past ages. He has a considerable knowledge of the geology of the whole of the coast, and has a good collection of specimens on sale. Mark Norman, the fishmonger, has also a well deserved reputation as a local geologist. We may choose this place for mentioning, for the sake of the entomologist, that Lush the hairdresser, and Keat, at the top of the Zigzags, have good collections of the Lepidoptera of the Undercliff for sale.

Rowing and sailing boats are kept for hire by Mr. Bull and others. The charges are moderate: sailing boats 2s. 6d. per hour, 20s. per day; rowing boats 2s. per hour, 15s. per day; and there is no danger when accompanied by experienced boatmen — though the number of sunken rocks, reefs, eddies, and races, for which the coast is notorious, render it extremely perilous for strangers, however well accustomed to the management of a boat, to venture out to sea alone. To do so is an act of extreme and inexcusable folly, for which not a few have had to atone with their lives. The view of the Undercliff from the water is one of exceeding beauty, and should not be missed.

High water at new and full moon is at 10·25; low water six hours afterwards.

Climate.

Ventnor is most widely known as a refuge for invalids from the chilling blasts of an ordinary English winter; and though in the more advanced cases of disease *cure* is unhappily not to be hoped for, and all that can be expected from any climate, however mild and salubrious, is the prolongation of life, and the mitigation of some of the more painful symptoms of the malady; yet, while in such sad cases these results are fully attained, and the last days of many are soothed and brightened by a residence on our sunny slopes, in innumerable instances incipient delicacy is arrested, health re-established, and years of usefulness and happiness secured by the invigorating influence of the atmosphere of this favoured locality.

Sir James Clark was the first to call attention to the peculiar advantages of the Undercliff, and he may be almost called the creator of Ventnor as a place of resort for invalids; his recommendations being ably seconded by the distinguished skill of the resident physician, Dr. Martin, whose experience in pulmonary complaints is almost unrivalled in this country. "This whole tract," writes Sir James, "is singularly well protected from the cold; and it would be difficult to find in any northern country a district of equal extent and variety of surface, and it may be added, of equal beauty in point of scenery, so completely screened from the

cutting north-east winds of spring on the one hand, and from the boisterous southerly gales of the autumn and winter on the other.”

Dr. Martin has favoured the writer with the following remarks and statistics, the result of many years' experience of the climate. “Ventnor and the Undercliff generally have long held a prominent place among our British climates for mildness and salubrity, and a very extensive series of observations conducted through a period of more than twenty years fully confirms its title to this distinction. It is chiefly remarkable for its mildness and equability during the winter and spring, its tempered heat in summer, and as a marine climate, for its dryness generally: the autumn, however, bears a relatively high temperature in comparison with other places in England.

“Its geological formation, aspect, and sheltered position, would naturally lead us to regard the Undercliff as a favoured spot; and the fact that it is so, is amply borne out by the evidence afforded by the vegetation in the district—myrtles, geraniums, heliotropes, verbenas, petunias, and a very considerable number of half-hardy shrubs and plants, usually brave the winter with impunity in the open border; while strawberries and raspberries are frequently to be found ripe in some of the gardens as late as November, and for many years a resident in the neighbourhood has been accustomed to have new potatoes of excellent flavour, and not unfrequently green peas, on Christmas and New Year's Days, which have been grown in the open garden without any protection. A second crop of ripe figs during autumn is also occasionally seen, and the hawthorn has been known in mild seasons to blossom at Christmas.*

* This latter fact, however, may be accounted for by the warmth of the autumn season, which, by stimulating the spring bud in an unnatural degree, causes it to shoot precociously, thus producing a premature growth, which is cut off by the colder weather of winter. This premature growth in autumn may also account for the foliage usually making its appearance later in the spring in the Undercliff than in most other places in the south of England; the spring shoot has been destroyed, and that which is produced in spring is the same which in ordinary circumstances should have been called into life in summer.

“The difference between the extremes, and consequently the less range of temperature in the Undercliff, compared with that of the other parts of the Isle of Wight, is so marked as to have called forth a special note in the Meteorological Reports of the Quarterly Returns of the Registrar-general to the effect that, owing to this circumstance, the table for the Undercliff could not be combined with those of other stations in the island.*

“The undulating character of the ground and the free exposure to the sea prevents that stagnant condition of atmosphere which is so frequently met with in sheltered localities; and hence the lightness and invigorating quality of the air, so frequently remarked by visitors, and which forms one of the attributes of this favoured spot. Hence also probably springs the immunity the Undercliff enjoys in the non-spreading and absence of epidemics for which it is remarkable.

“A climate possessing such advantages naturally offers great inducements to a large class of invalids to seek a residence here during a considerable portion of the year; and the favourable results which have been obtained in a great majority of cases fully justify the high opinion expressed by many of the more eminent members of the medical profession for many years past, in respect to its sanitary qualities.”

EXCURSIONS FROM VENTNOR.

Shut in between the Downs and the sea, there is but little scope for locomotion at Ventnor, except along the rocky terrace of which it forms part. The very causes which give it its salubrity and beauty tend to confine its

* The mean temperature of the year, on an average of ten years, is $51^{\circ}72'$: winter, $41^{\circ}80'$; spring, $49^{\circ}82'$; summer, $61^{\circ}31'$; autumn, $53^{\circ}95'$. Mean temperature of coldest month (February), $41^{\circ}12'$; of hottest (August), $62^{\circ}47'$. Highest temperature in shade (August 16th, 1842) 88° ; lowest ditto (February 3rd, 1841), 20° . Average number of rainy days, 73·3; nights, 77·9. Average rain-fall, 25·94 inches: October giving the most, 3·58; April the least, 1·29. The S.W. is the most prevalent wind, blowing 96·97 days; E. 60·34; N.E. 54·61; W. 52·24; N.W. 30·95; S. 26·72; N. 24·46; S.E. 18·85.

inhabitants within rather narrow limits; and though the road to Niton is one of which it is difficult to weary, the want of a greater variety of drives is a frequent subject of complaint with its visitors. In fact there are but three roads practicable for carriages; that along the Undercliff (Routes 68—70), to Bonchurch and Shanklin (Route 58); and to Appuldurcombe, Godshill, and Newport (Route 22).

For the equestrian there is far greater variety, the Downs on both sides of the Appuldurcombe valley presenting many rough roads and bridle paths.

But it is the pedestrian alone who can thoroughly appreciate the natural beauties of the neighbourhood: and though the growing exclusiveness of proprietors is gradually depriving the tourist of many once delightful walks, there is an abundance still left, and a week or two may be spent by an active walker without exhausting its natural beauties.

Route 62. Ventnor to Horseshoe Bay, Bonchurch, and Luccombe.

A path under the parsonage wall leads from the Cove past Devonshire Terrace on its bold projecting headland, and making a circuit to avoid the disagreeable interruption of the Gas-house, continues across the green Cowleas, and along the edge of the precipitous chalk cliff to *Horseshoe Bay, Bonchurch* (Route 60), and thence (see Route 57), through the Landslip or along the cliff to *Luccombe* and *Shanklin* (Route 52), 3 miles.

Route 63. From Ventnor, by the Whitepath, to Shanklin Road; return by Landslip.

A narrow shelf, like a white line, about a third of the way up St. Boniface Down, entered from the old Newport Road behind "Hillside," leads above Bonchurch to the Shanklin Road; a short distance further on we may cross a stile and descend the abrupt slope to Luccombe, and return by the Landslip, a round of 3 miles. (See Routes 57, 58.)

Route 64. The Eastern Downs, to Cook's Castle, Apse, Wheteley Bank, and Wroxall.

The Downs afford many delightful walks, whether we take the eastern or western side of the Newport Road. In

the former direction, having gained the crest of the Down, (which pedestrians may do from the quarry at the top of Grove Hill, while those on horseback must enter by the first gate on their right after passing through the chalk cutting at the summit of the Zigzags,) we may continue along the ridge, enjoying most varied and extensive views, and descend upon *Shanklin*, or from Cook's Castle to *Apse Reach* or *Wheteley Bank*, returning by the road. Another bridleway leads down the north-west slope to *Wroxall* and *Appuldurcombe*.

Route 65. Western Downs, to Whitwell and St. Lawrence.

The Western Downs may be approached by the second gate on the left at the head of the Zigzags, immediately through which a steep road to the right takes us to the ridge of *Week Down*, where the expanse of smooth turf invites to a good gallop, whence we may descend on *Week Farm*, *Whitwell*, or *St. Lawrence*.

Route 66. Western Downs, by Rew and Span, to Stenbury, Nettlecombe, and Whitwell, with continuation to St. Catherine's.

Another mode of ascent is by taking the left hand road beyond the *Sloven's Bush Turnpike* on the Newport Road to *Rew Farm*, where the firestone strata may be seen picturesquely cropping out in a field to the right, in which a hedge bank is white in spring with a profusion of snow-drops; thence along the rural lane to *Span*, once the demesne of the old family of *De Aula*, where an abrupt Shute to the left conducts to the top of the hill.

From the higher ground to the right (where again a gallop may be enjoyed), close under the Appuldurcombe Park wall, there is perhaps the most extensive and beautiful view in the island, comprising nearly the whole of its surface. A "pack gate" by the side of the wall leads by a precipitous descent to *Sheepwash* and *Stenbury*, the latter one of the most venerable of the many Jacobean manor-houses which stud the Isle of Wight (formerly the property of the De Aulas and Heynos), and worth exami-

nation. In the last century a large number of cinerary urns were discovered here. From Stenbury we may return by *Whitwell* and *St. Lawrence*, either by the Steephill Road, or along the upper cliff entering to the left at the top of the Shute. If we proceed straight forwards from the top of the hill above Span we shall descend upon Whitwell by *Nettlecombe*, and return as before.

In place of returning to Ventnor from Whitwell we may cross the fields below the Church, and gain the Niton Road at *Kingsgate Farm*, (shrouded in luxuriant ivy up to the very roof-tree,) and proceeding a short distance in the direction of Niton, turn to the right, and ascend *St. Catherine's Down*, returning either by Blackgang or Niton Church. This prolonged circuit is one of much varied beauty and interest.

Route 67. Ventnor to Appuldurcombe and Godshill.

An inland drive may be taken to Appuldurcombe and Godshill by Sloven's Bush and Wroxall (described Route 22), a pleasant excursion, especially when the banks are strewn with pale primroses, and the "golden daffodils" are "tossing their heads in sprightly dance."

The return route may be pleasantly varied by a circuit from Wheteley Bank by Apse Heath and Merry Gardens to *Shanklin*, or by Bridge Court and Bleak Down to *Niton*, or continuing still further, to Appleford, Stroud Green, and *Chale*. (For the road between Appuldurcombe and *Newport*, see Route 22.)

Appuldurcombe.

Appuldurcombe, which was for many generations the chief mansion in the island, where the Worsleys reigned as petty kings in the midst of their wide domains, and which only a few years since was stored with objects of art in painting and statuary of no common value and interest, after having passed from the hands of its ancient proprietors, and remained for a long time unoccupied, has recently been taken on lease by a joint-stock company, by whom it is about to be opened as a *Hotel* and *boarding house*. The arrangements of the house are well suited for such a purpose,

but, with every good wish for the success of the scheme, it may be questioned whether the distance of the house from the sea, of which it has not even a view, will not prove a drawback to its popularity with summer visitors.

The park, which is extensive and picturesque, may be entered from Ventnor either at Span or Wroxall; though the principal entrance is on the side towards Godshill, through an archway adorned with Ionic pilasters in an insipid style.

The name has been derived from "Y pwl dwr y cwm," which ungainly vocables are asserted to stand in "ancient British" for "the pool of water in the valley." Without going so far back, it may be deduced much more simply from the Saxon "Appuldre" and the British "cwm," "the valley of Apple Trees."

The manor of Appuldurcombe was given by Isabella de Fortibus, towards the latter part of the reign of Henry III., to the Benedictine abbey of Monteburg, in the diocese of Coutances, which had been founded in 1090 by Richard de Redvers, her ancestor. It thus became a cell to that abbey, consisting of a prior and two monks, and shared the fate of the other alien priories of having its lands seized in the wars with France, and was dissolved in the second year of Henry V. It was granted (30 Henry VI.) to the Minoreesses without Aldgate (whose name still survives in the "Minories"), by whom it was leased to the Frys, and came from them by marriage to the Leighs and Worsleys (see Godshill Church, p. 96). Edward III., apprehending a descent of the French on the island, and fearing that the French monks might make common cause with the invaders, ordered the Bishop of Winchester to remove all such to Hyde Abbey, near Winchester, from whence the Prior of Appuldurcombe and his two monks were transferred to Salisbury, where the Abbot of Monteburg had a certain tenement. Worsley gives a view of the old priory house, (a picturesque gabled structure standing near the site of the present mansion), probably erected by Sir James Worsley, where his son Richard had the honour of entertaining Henry VIII. and his minister Cromwell. Sir

James died in 1538 : Cromwell went to the block in 1540, so that the date of this royal visit is fixed within a limit of two years. The estate passed by marriage from the Worsleys, at the death of Sir Richard, the last of the name, to the Yarborough family, and was sold by the present earl. The present owner of the mansion and park is Wynn Williams, Esq.

The Park

well deserves a visit; it is extensive, and the ground is very much diversified, and there are noble views over the wide glades. It was laid out by "Capability Brown," and "possesses in an eminent degree the defects common to most of the works of that once celebrated artist." The woods, which are well arranged, though too much thinned of late, clothe the sides of the rising hills, and shelter the mansion. There are some stately oaks, elms, and beeches, covered with a profusion of lichens nourished by the moist south-west winds.

The Worsley Obelisk.

On the summit of the down behind the house, immediately above a bold mural cliff of firestone known as *Gatchiff*, stands an *obelisk* of Cornish granite, erected in 1774 by Sir Richard Worsley in memory of his kinsman Sir Robert. It was originally 70 feet high, but was struck by lightning in 1831, and lost several feet of its elevation. The displaced stones lie scattered about the base. The view from this point is very beautiful, though hardly equal to that already mentioned above *Span Farm*.

The Mansion.

The present house is a square Corinthian building of Portland stone, with low projecting wings (see *Vitruvius Britannicus*, vol. iii. p. 61), heavy, but with a certain amount of stateliness, commenced by Sir Robert Worsley in 1710, and finished by Sir Richard. The hall, library, and dining-room are fine apartments, and the house is well arranged for comfort and convenience. The chief attraction of Appuldurcombe was the collection of pictures, statues, and antiquities, once famous as the *Worsley*

Museum, now removed to the other residences of the Earl of Yarborough. This collection was formed by Sir Richard Worsley at a vast expense, during a tour made expressly for this purpose in Italy and the Levant*, and was considered at the time to be one of the finest in England. Sir Richard, with the help of the younger Visconti, drew up a full description of his collection, copiously illustrated, under the title of the *Museum Worsleianum*. The preparation of the work, which was one of the most splendid that had ever issued from an English press, cost many thousand pounds. After a limited number of copies had been struck off, the plates were broken up, and it has become a rare and much sought for book.

THE UNDERCLIFF.

Pleasant and diversified as are the various walks and rides already indicated, those which give its chief charm to Ventnor have yet to be noticed. Most visitors will indeed be inclined to reverse the order which has been adopted, and make their first expedition in the direction of St. Lawrence and Niton, reserving the other and less attractive excursions for any time they may have to spare after they have thoroughly viewed the Undercliff. The object of the present arrangement, is that the various excursions may fall in more orderly succession, and that the tourist may be led forward in his progress westward, without any unnecessary break.

Before entering upon this far-famed tract, it may be desirable to call the attention of the tourist to its physical history, and the natural causes which have produced such surpassing beauty. None of the many writers who have dealt with the subject have surpassed Sir H. Englefield in the faithfulness and graphic power of the following description.

“This tract, which is of various breadths, from a quarter to half a mile, at present exhibits a series of irregular ter-

* Giovanni Amadio, a native of Pola in Istria, who accompanied Sir Richard in his tour and returned with him to England, is still living at St. Lawrence.

faces, each supported by vast fragments of rock bounded by a high wall of cliffs towards the north, and in general terminated towards the sea by a very broken and indented line of cliff. The whole forms a vast mass of confused ruins, in which no regularity of strata or materials can be traced. To account in any degree for this singular appearance, it will be necessary to recur to that period, remote beyond all reach of history, when, by some great convulsion, this island was exposed to the sea in one vast range of perpendicular cliffs, such as would now appear if the whole Undercliff were removed from the wall of rock above it. The clay and sand strata attacked at their foot by the waves of the sea, in their front by wind, rain, and frosts, and above all, softened and washed away by the numerous springs which issue from under the rock, very soon became incapable of bearing the vast weight incumbent on them. The rock (divided by numerous periodical fissures) began to part at the fissure nearest to its front, gradually subsided and slipped in an inclined position (or perhaps sometimes, though not often, fell over) until its progress was stopped by the slope of clay on which it moved. But though at rest for a time, the same causes which set it in motion would again press it forward to the sea. Its fall had left a great front of rock and clay bare, while its upper surface formed a basin, in which the waters of the springs collected into a pool, moistening still more effectually the loosened clay below it, which, mixed with the fragments of rock detached from the great mass in its fall, and full of interstices formed by the different hardness of its own several strata, was more rapidly washed away than when in its own bed. A second subsidence now took place; while from above another mass gave way, and by its weight urged the first fallen rock still further towards the sea, whose waves, carrying rapidly away all those parts easily soluble, united with the other causes of destruction to bring down fresh ruins from the cliff above. In this manner it is evident that the Undercliff was formed, most rapidly at first, but gradually slower as the causes of destruction tended to counteract their own effects; for, after every subsidence, the mass of fallen clay and rock formed itself into a more gentle slope,

and which extending higher up against the face of the clay cliff, tended to keep it from mouldering, while the declivity of the slope itself rendered the material already fallen less apt to slide. The action of the sea which washed away the clay from among the masses of rock at the bottom, caused those masses to come into closer contact, and by degrees forced them into a high and strong bulwark, while those rocks which had rolled further out, became long reefs, extending far into the water, and breaking in a great measure the force of the billows before they reached the shore. Vegetation now had time to cover the face of the ruins and secured the surface of the slope from the effects of rain and frost; while the springs gradually formed regular courses through the little winding valleys among the heaps of ruin. Thus was the Undercliff gradually brought to the state in which we now see it."

The most recent slips of any extent have occurred at the two extremities of the district, between which there has been no great change within historical periods, those at East End in 1810 and 1818, and that between the Sandrock Hotel and Blackgang in 1798-9. It is consoling to the inhabitants of this lovely district to be assured on good authority that "no further great movement is to be dreaded."

The Undercliff is in its general appearance as wild and strange as would have been expected from what has been said of the way in which it was produced. The lower cliffs rise irregularly from the beach to a height of from 20 or 30 to 100 feet; then comes the broad, rugged, sloping platform of a quarter to half a mile in width, from which ascends to a further elevation of some 200 or 300 feet, the second or inner cliff, steep, strangely riven, its deep vertical fissures contrasting boldly with the horizontal bands of stratification, so regular in their formation as to wear the semblance of masonry; the swelling chalk down expands above all.

"There is a verse," writes Miss Sewell,* "spoken of a very different country which often comes to my mind when I think of this. 'It is a land which the Lord thy God careth for . . . the eyes of the Lord thy God are always

* Ursula, i. 225.

upon it from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year.' Sometimes it has even seemed to me that Heaven itself can scarcely be more beautiful."

Route 68. From Ventnor along the Sea Cliff, to St. Lawrence, Puckaster, and Rocken End.

Reserving the high road for the close of our excursions from Ventnor, we now propose to accompany the visitor along the margin of the cliff westwards, reminding him that though a *cliff-path* is an Englishman's undoubted right—a right which in this particular instance has been successfully maintained—the privilege does not in any way extend to the adjacent grounds which we skirt in our progress, on which a sense of propriety will hinder him from trespassing. It is certainly to be feared that many of the restrictions, of which tourists not undeservedly complain, have been brought upon them by the vulgar intrusiveness of a lower class of visitors, who have entered houses, gardens, and even looked in at the windows in the vicinity of the public foot-paths.

Leaving Ventnor at the west end of the *Esplanade*, and passing *Milanese Villa*, we soon reach *Steephill*, with its little cascade dashing on the pebbly beach, beyond which the path dips down into a tangled cove with some rude fishermen's huts at the bottom, a picture in miniature of what the Cove and Esplanade of Ventnor were some thirty years since. The sea face here rises in a line of lofty cliffs of chalk and sandstone, known as *Western Lines*, strangely riven and disturbed in their subsidence from the upper range, and overhanging the beach in a most threatening manner: the way under them being almost impassable from the number and size of the fallen blocks which strew the shore. "From the mixture of cliff and sloping bank, every part of it may easily be examined, and this is an excellent spot for the study of this interesting stratum." Before we reach Western Lines a by-path leads up to the high road, curtailing the walk for those who are unequal to the entire length. The cliff-path, which rises and falls with every inequality of the ground, commanding ever-varying views of uncommon loveliness, soon brings us to

Orchard Bay, with a coast-guard watch-house on its shingly beach; to the right, the picturesque Elizabethan cottage of the widow of the Honourable Dudley Pelham, brother to Lord Yarborough, peeps out from among the trees, and a little further on Lord Yarborough's villa is seen, beneath which lies *Mount Bay*, defended by his lordship's mimic fort formerly mounting French guns, traditionally reported to have been cast from the church bells of Nantes, and to have been taken by an English privateer, which have now given place to modern ordnance. Just beyond the fort, a half-concealed path through the bushes to the left leads to a charming recess in the cliffs with rock-hewn benches, overlooking *Sir Richard's Cove*; the very place for a pic-nic. Beyond this the low headland of *Woody Point* stretches out from the line of coast, affording a striking view of the whole range from the slender lighthouse of St. Catherine to Ventnor. At this point, those who are indisposed to proceed further, may reach the high road and return by St. Lawrence. Below Woody Point is *Woody Bay*, now made accessible for vehicles by the new road from *Woolverton*, of which it is to form the bathing-ground.

Beyond this stretches the wide curve of *Binnel Bay*; the height of the cliff gradually diminishes, and we enter upon a rough green slope, descending almost to the water's edge, across which the path continues, following every indentation of the coast and variety of level of the ground; and passing a little ruinous corn-mill which once ground flour for the inhabitants of *Old Park* (Sir John Cheape, K.C.B.), which lies a short distance above, skirts the grounds of *Mirables* (J. Coape, Esq.), and the *Orchard* (Sir H. P. Gordon, Bart.), and reaches the picturesque little cove of *Puckaster*, the resort of the fishermen of Niton, forming with its huts, and nets, and capstans, a tempting subject for the pencil. Here, as recorded by the rector in the Niton register, "Charles II., King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, etc., came ashore July 1st, 1675, after he had endured a great and dangerous storm at sea."

Reeth Bay succeeds Puckaster Cove with its beach of fine hard sand, and its comfortable Hotel and Boarding-House. A short distance further we reach St. Catherine's Lighthouse and *Rocken End*.

Route 69. Along the Upper Cliff, to Pelham Woods, St. Lawrence, and Niton.

Another walk may be taken along the top of the *Upper Cliff*, towards St. Lawrence and Niton, entering by a gate to the left at the top of the Zigzags. No one should omit this walk, which commands a view of wondrous beauty (especially when autumn has enriched the foliage with its varied hues), over the wild ruinous scene below. About midway between Steephill and St. Lawrence, a rough cart road makes its way up through a rift in the cliffs, a little beyond which some rude steps give access to a path most picturesquely formed on a shelf of the rock left by the decomposition of a softer bed, overhanging the *Pelham Woods*; a delicious rambling-ground, where one may linger unwearied for hours. Here the visitor may descend and reach the road about 1 mile from Ventnor. If he prolongs his walk by the cliff, he will be delighted with a series of similar though ever-changing views, and have opportunities of descending at *St. Lawrence's Shute*,—at *St. Rhadegund's Path* (popularly known as *Red-gun*),—at the *Cripple Path* above the *Orchard*—or at *Niton*. This path is practicable on horseback only as far as the *St. Lawrence* or *Whitwell Shute*.

Route 70. Ventnor to St. Lawrence, and by various tracks to Sandrock, Reeth Bay or Niton, Whitwell, and St. Catherine's Down.

There can hardly be anywhere found five miles which combine so many elements of the picturesque—noble hills rising to an almost mountainous height—a rugged wall of cliffs, stained with a thousand hues, and draped with luxuriant foliage—huge masses of grey rock starting from the turf, mantled with bright green mosses and grey and orange lichens, and festooned with the verdant tapestry of the ivy,

bramble, and traveller's joy, a soil rich from the decomposition of the fallen strata, where primroses cluster on the banks, cowslips and orchises glitter on the slopes, and hyacinths cover the leafy glades with a sheet of azure—noble trees, through whose leafy screen the delighted eye catches glimpses of the blue sea or the jagged lines of the precipice above—it is indeed a tract worth lingering over lovingly, and which, however often visited, always seems to present some new charm. The following description was written by Sterling in 1828, before so-called improvement had impaired its natural beauty:—"The road traverses a broad terrace at a considerable height above the sea, but very much lower than a range of cliffs which runs behind it. You therefore have on one hand, rising to a great elevation, a rugged wall of sandstone, and on the other a broken surface, in many parts half a mile wide, at the foot of which the sea dashes. This has been produced by the fall of large portions of the cliff above; but all marks of ruin, except the picturesque variety of outline, have been effaced by the luxuriant growth of trees and creepers. The latter in many places have clambered up the face of the highest part of the cliff, and draped it from top to bottom with a mantle of brilliant green. Almost the whole of the Undercliff is divided into grounds, for the cottages of peasants or gentlemen; and these grounds are planted into the most delightful woodland, opening at every turn, from the perpetual fluctuation of their surface, into glorious visions of the sea; while on the other side they almost as often spread themselves up some inclined portion of the cliff so as to interpose a mound of mossy and graceful foliage between the road and the height above. The surface of the lower terrace traversed by the road is varied by a constant succession of glens, crags, and gullies, gently-swelling elevations, and broken valleys." "Along this tract," writes Mr. Thorne, "the tourist is ordinarily confined to the main road, but even that affords a continuous pleasure. It rises and falls in constant change, but is never steep enough to make the way toilsome to the feeblest pedestrian, and no feeling of weariness can ever creep over any one, unless it be when shut in between

some of the provoking walls which guard the often extensive private grounds attached to the mansions that are pretty closely spread along where the stranger has been reckoning on having a fine view. All is a medley of patches of cultivated land and park-like enclosures, and stately mansions and humble cottages, of soft sunny fertile slopes and rocky banks, where the bright verdure climbs furtively over their rugged sides, and a wide deep bay shut in by a bold promontory; and anon you pass through delicious bits of wood and copse, where the glancing sun piercing the deep canopy works on the path a diaper of exquisitely mingled grey and gold, and every moment the glorious ocean, with the merry white sails flashing hither and thither, breaks in upon the view, or, if unseen, the murmuring surge makes you aware of its vicinity, and adds that strange tone of elevation to the mind which it alone among all the works of nature can excite."

The geological history of the district has been already told (pp. 241-3). The strata belong to the upper portion of the cretaceous system, and are nearly horizontal, rising slightly to the west. The downs which surmount the mural cliff are of the lower chalk, without flints; between which and the cliff itself intervenes a layer of chalk marl, rich in fossils. The cliff is composed in the upper part of a series of beds of "greenish grey sand and calcareous strata, in which are layers of blueish marl rock. Strata of cherty sandstone, alternating with layers of sandy marl, occur in the lower part; and from the disintegration and removal of the intermediate earthy beds the chert appears in projecting ledges;" these are sometimes of very considerable projection, affording, as in the *Pelham Woods* and at the *Cripple Path*, a sheltered path excavated by nature in the very face of the cliff. "This circumstance imparts a peculiar feature to the landscape, and under certain combinations of rock and vegetation contributes greatly to the picturesque character of the local scenery."*

On leaving Ventnor, a high wooded bank conceals the sea;

* Mantell, p. 176.

the slopes to the right of the road are also richly covered with wood, through which the grey cliff here and there peeps out. The road here is narrow, and somewhat perilous to the numerous pedestrians who make it their daily promenade. The construction of a raised footpath between Ventnor and Steephill would be a great boon to the public.

Passing the tasteful group of thatched buildings which form the stables and farm-buildings, the road soon reaches the embattled gateway of *Steephill Castle* (Albert Hambrough, Esq.; Sanderson, arch., 1833-5), which occupies the site of the thatched cottage built about 1770 by the Right Hon. Hans Stanley, when governor of the island, and afterwards inhabited by Lord Dysart. It is a decidedly picturesque building, and though no one would now think of erecting a mock castle, with its mimic show of machicolations, embrasures, and bastions, as the residence of a peaceable subject in the nineteenth century, that lesson had to be learnt five-and-twenty years since; and instead of severely criticising let us rather be grateful to those who have added so conspicuous an ornament to a spot already so romantic. The grounds are necessarily kept strictly private; it is needless, therefore, to descant on the picturesque beauty of the walks—the rarity and luxuriance of the trees and flowers with which they are decked, and the views of surpassing loveliness they command—“combining all the beauty that nature, blended with the highest excellence of art, can impart to a scene hardly to be surpassed in England.” (*Dr. Martin.*) The gardens were laid out under the direction of the elder Mr. Hambrough by Page of Southampton.

At the foot of the rapid and once dangerous descent a group of little thatched cottages formerly clustered round a rustic inn, where travellers were wont to dine under the spreading branches of a large fig-tree, and where “three or four could be accommodated for the night.”

From the precipitous rock to the left of the descent a little foaming *cascade* may be observed tumbling in rapid leaps; a short distance further a huge shelf of rock on the left, dyed with rich hues and draped with foliage, offers a

beautiful study to the artist; immediately beyond a stile indicates a footpath leading to the cliff and the shore below. Continuing along the road with ever-changing views of the cliff on one side, and the blue sea, into which the Woody Point pushes its huge round bulk, on the other, leaving the picturesque *Poultry Cottage* of Steephill on the right, and the moss-covered roofs and grey gables of *Bank-end Farm* below us on the left (a path through the farmyard leads to the sea cliff), and noticing the wonderful luxuriance of the ivy which in dark masses covers the trees from root to topmost bough, we reach the rose-covered lodge and thatched well-house marking the entrance to Mrs. Pelham's cottage. To the right lie the *Pelham Woods*, where a rude cart track and bridle-road lead to the summit of the cliff, and the pedestrian has the choice of a variety of rough footpaths, once carefully tended, but now tangled and overgrown with briars and thorns. He can scarcely go a few paces along these but his way seems blocked up by rugged masses of mossy rock, waving with fern and festooned with creepers, among which the path climbs steeply to a shelf in the cliff, formed by the decomposition of the softer strata, by the aid of which it mounts to the summit.

A few steps further on, a fountain bubbles out clear and sparkling beneath a little Gothic shrine known as *St. Lawrence's Well*, where a broad stone bench tempts the wayfarer to turn aside from the hot dusty road, and slake his thirst while he rests amid the pleasant sound of the plashing stream.

The road is here straitened to a perilous narrowness by the high walls encircling *Lord Yarborough's cottage*, originally erected by Sir Richard Worsley, who in 1793-4 made strenuous but unsuccessful attempts at this spot to introduce the culture of the vine. He planted a plot of 2½ acres with about 7000 vines, and engaged an *Angiovine* to attend to their cultivation; but the sort chosen proved unsuitable, and the spray from the sea had a prejudicial effect on the plants, so that the wine was scanty in quantity and rough and inferior in quality, and the whole vineyard was rooted up before 1808.

We next reach the ivy-mantled thatched cottages, with their glowing orchards and babbling runnels —

“ The quiet homes
And hallowed birth spots of the English race,
Scattered at will beneath the crag's rude face,
While springs gush round, and near the ocean foams.
What finds he like to these afar who roams ?
Tall trees o'ershade them ; creepers fondly grace
Each rock and pathway,” (*Sterling*) —

which form the little village of

St. Lawrence,

of world-wide fame for its tiny church, as much connected in the popular mind with the idea of the Isle of Wight as Shanklin Chine, and the donkey at Carisbrook Well, or the sands of Alum Bay. Everybody has heard of it ; everybody in coming to the island looks forward to a visit to it as one of the things to be done ; and if any one is rash or forgetful enough to return without having shown due honour to the diminutive shrine his friends will soon be kind enough to let him know that in their opinion he might almost as well have stayed at home.

The road to the church winds up the steep and once formidable *Shute* : another road, recently formed in connection with a building speculation, which threatens a speedy inroad of genteel villas, avoids the hill, and passing below the church, joins the old road at the new toll-bar. We boldly mount the steep ascent, and pausing at the summit to take breath, turn to admire the striking view eastwards. The line of cliffs sweeps back in a graceful curve, so that the eye commands the whole range at one glance, with the wooded slopes and richly cultivated domains at their base ; the turrets of Steephill rising in the mid-distance, and Ventnor closing the prospect.

The Church of St. Lawrence (Rev. C. Levingston, Rector), is only remarkable for its diminutive size ; and though the addition of a chancel has robbed it of its claim to be the smallest in England (which was before the enlargement

contested by the churches at Buttermere and Wastdale Head), its tiny proportions render it still not unworthy of notice. Before the additions its dimensions were, length 20 feet, breadth 12 feet, and height to the eaves, 6 feet: the new chancel adds about 10 feet to the length; a porch and bell-gable have also been constructed; but the whole has been done so judiciously, and the stone of the district so soon assumes an air of age, that to the casual observer the building would appear all of one date. There is no architectural feature of the slightest interest, and though the walls are probably of Norman date, there is nothing to indicate the period of their erection. The interior is disfigured with pews, which are ludicrously incongruous in a church no bigger than a good-sized room, and a mean transparency over the altar. The church and churchyard, which once stood open all day, are now fast locked up, and if we would turn in, even to read the epitaphs, or rest in the porch and enjoy the quiet beauty which spreads all around, still more to breathe a prayer beneath the humble roof

“ Through which, with fearless eye,
We look in faith to find our God ;”

where “you seem more completely face to face with the Almighty than under arches of lofty dimness, or looking through the perspective of far-receding arches” (*Sterling*), we must get the key, and have all our sacred feelings put to the rout by the well-meaning officiousness of a chattering janitor. This *show-system* is in truth a vile one, especially when connected with the house of God, or the last home of the departed, and few places suffer more from it than the Isle of Wight.

Small as the church is, it is amply sufficient for the requirements of the parishioners, who in 1851 only numbered 111, three less than at the previous census: in 1801 the population was only 76. The parish contains 332 acres.

Few estates have passed so often by the female line into new families, as the manor of St. Lawrence, formerly known as *Underwath* or *Undercliff*. From the De Aulas of Span

it passed by marriage successively to the Russells of Yaverland, the Hackets of Wolverton, the Leighs of Appuldurcombe, the Worsleys, and, finally, to the Yarborough family, its present possessors.

Choice of Routes from St. Lawrence.

The visitor may proceed — (1), to Wolverton and back; or (2), by Whitwell Shute to Whitwell, &c.; or (3), by St. Rhadegund's Path and Cripple Path to the Road, or to Niton Shute; or (4), along the road to Mirables, Puckaster, Sandrock, Reeth Bay, or Niton.

(1.) From St. Lawrence to Wolverton and back.

A steep rocky lane leads from the church, across the new road to the little farm and ruin of Wolverton, which is to give its name to the new town, already beginning to rise in its vicinity. The scene here is very picturesque, the ivy-clad gable ends of the ruin, the quaint old farmhouse, the runnel of crystal water gushing out of the rock, the old trees which overshadow the grey walls, form a picture lovely enough to induce any to turn out of his road: while the antiquary will be delighted to discover an undoubted example of what is now so rarely to be met with—a *house* of the thirteenth century. Those who imagine that every building with pointed windows must have had an ecclesiastical purpose, have long since dubbed the ruin "*Wolverton Chapel*;" but there is no question that it is a specimen of domestic architecture, and as such, of much interest. The remains show us a gabled building of two stories (the lower probably serving only as a storehouse), with lancet windows at each end, and a two-storied appendage at one angle, corresponding exactly in plan to the mediæval houses still remaining at Crowhurst, Sussex, and Little Wenham Hall, Essex. Meagre as the accommodation appears to modern notions, those who are acquainted with the habits of our forefathers, and know how far more public their domestic life was than that of their descendants, will see nothing to surprise them in the fact, that the dwelling of a man of substance should

have contained only two rooms,—one large apartment, as the general living and eating room of the household and sleeping room of the dependants; and one small one, as the retiring room and bed-chamber of the heads of the family. This interesting fragment deserves more attention than it has received, and it would be the better for a little conservative repair. It may have been built by John de Wolverton, who held lands in Whitwell and Southwathe, of Lady Matilda de Estur, of Gatcombe, in the reign of Edward I. Behind the ruin a new road leads down to the beach in Woody Bay.

We shall find it a pleasant variation from the beaten track, to continue along the lane past Wolverton to *Wrongs*, where an ivy-clad gable, and a group of stone-mullioned cottages, beneath the shade of some gnarled oaks, with a copious brook babbling by, claims a place in the sketch-book, and thence return to the road above.

(2.) From St. Lawrence by Whitwell Shute to Whitwell, &c.

Standing at St. Lawrence Church, we notice a formidably steep road mounting to the top of the cliff, and passing through a gap in the rocks at the summit. This is the dreaded *Whitwell Shute*, “cut through the rocky barrier by one of the Worsley family, and lowered at various periods in consequence of the many serious and fatal accidents occurring from its steepness, as the records of the neighbouring little churchyard can testify; it is even now a very sharp declivity, and one that is as well avoided by drivers and horses unaccustomed to the island.” (*Dr. Martin.*) If we are not deterred by the terrors of the pass, which is more to be dreaded in the descent, we can breast the hill, and winding among the swelling ridges of the chalk downs, pass *Dean Farm*, and reach the little secluded village of

Whitwell,

on which as yet no improver has laid sacrilegious finger. The *church* presents some singularities, and is deserving of a visit. Its plan is that so common in the island,—two

almost equal bodies, with a stone-ribbed south porch, and small square tower of pleasing outline, at the west. The two bodies, which are divided by an arcade of singular rudeness, originally constituted two separate chapels: that to the north, dedicated to St. Rhadegund, built and endowed by De Estur, Lord of Gatcombe (in which manor Whitwell was originally included), with an understanding that the Rector of Gatcombe should keep it in repair and officiate therein on certain days. That to the south, which is the smaller of the two, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, belonged to the parishioners of Whitwell; to which fact is to be attributed the position of the parochial altar, at the end of the smaller aisle, instead of in the constructional chancel or chapel of St. Rhadegund. Cromwell's commissioners recommended the union of the two chapels, which has been practically carried into effect, and the duties of the Rector of Gatcombe have been commuted for by a money payment. The visitor should notice the Norman corbel, and Early English window on the north side of the Gatcombe chantry,—the column heightened by a capital placed on the original capital supporting the chancel arch, and the disproportioned size and position of the east windows. The pulpit and reading-desk are good Jacobean work, costing 51s. in 1623-4.

Whitwell is properly a chapel of ease to the parishes of Godshill and Gatcombe, the incumbents of which were bound "to find and provide a fit and decent priest, constantly to reside in the village, and celebrate mass and all other divine offices on the Lord's Day and other festivals." It is now united with Godshill and Niton. The population in 1632 was 309; in 1801, 405; in 1841, 660; but in 1851 only 637. It contains 1963 acres.

From Whitwell Church we may drive or walk across the fields to Niton, crossing the infant Yar, or turning to the left at the end of the village street, reach *Nettlecombe*, and return over the downs to Ventnor, either by *Span*, and *Sloven's Bush*, or by *Week Farm* and the down of the same name. From the summit of the Whitwell Shute, the pedestrian can continue along the brink of the cliffs

westward to Niton, or eastward to Ventnor: the latter path is also practicable for equestrians.

(3.) From St. Lawrence, by St. Rhadegund's Path and Cripple Path to the Road, or to Niton Shute.

At St. Lawrence, the road mounts to a higher level, and approaches nearer to the base of the cliffs, which rise in towering masses threatening the destruction of the passer-by. Indeed they do fall sometimes, and shortly before reaching the toll-bar, a heap of huge fragments will be seen to the right, which were precipitated from above in the winter of 1852. Happily the fall took place in the night, or it might have been attended with disastrous consequences. The base of the cliffs is concealed by swelling green slopes, gay in spring with a rich variety of flowers, in some places reaching nearly to the summit of the rock. Advantage has been taken of one of the easiest of these inclines to form a footpath, known as *St. Rhadegund's Path*, by which the residents in the lower part of the Whitwell parish used to climb to pay their vows at the shrine of their patron saint.

The tourist, if unfortunately encumbered with a carriage, may do well to quit it here, and ascending the cliff, continue along its edge to *Cripple Path* (taking care to avoid the fate of Kerenhappuch Newnham, who, some forty years since, was blown over the cliff in this place, lest he should not be so lucky as she was, and reach the ground unhurt); where he can again descend, and regain his vehicle. The view of the rough slopes below, the headlands dividing the little bays, and the expanse of ocean beyond is very striking, and should not be missed.

(4.) From St. Lawrence, along the Road to Mirables, Puckaster, Reeth Bay, Sandrock or Niton.

If we continue along the high road, with its rapid undulations, we speedily reach the woods of *Old Park* (Sir J. Cheape), and *Mirables* (J. Coape, Esq.), famous in the days of earlier tourists, when the instances in which advan-

tage was taken of the nature of the ground to form a romantic garden were but few. Other more modern erections now outshine Mirables; but nothing can rob it of the picturesque combination of rock, and wood, and water, southern slopes, and sunny terraces, or of the glorious view from which it took its name in days of yore (Mirabel = fine prospect), which must ever form its greatest charm. The spot was originally chosen as a residence by George Arnold, Esq. of Ashby Lodge, Northants, who added to the original cottage — one of the low Jacobean farmhouses of the island — and laid out the grounds with much taste.

Above Mirables the cliff attains its greatest height, and displays all the varied strata in vertical succession, from the gault in the bank by the roadside, to the chalk in the down above, which here rises to a peak known as the *High Hat*.

Beyond Mirables the road again emerges into sunlight, and winds up a steep slope, covered with velvet turf, broken with masses of grey rock, and bearing a little forest of venerable thorns, most beautiful in spring when their snowy blossoms scent the air, and hardly less so when laden with rich purplish red berries in autumn. We must linger here, for this is one of the loveliest spots in our route, and take full draughts of the romantic beauty which surrounds us, enhanced not a little by the happy absence of the stone walls which have hemmed us in almost ever since we left Ventnor with their rectilinear deformity. Rounding a jagged shoulder of the overhanging cliff, we reach the foot of the *Cripple Path*, and wonder how it is possible for the track which we see striking across the greensward to make its way up the seemingly vertical precipices. But, like the evils of life, they only appear insurmountable at a distance. A closer examination shows hidden shelves, and cunningly-formed stairs, and other undreamt-of facilities by which the ascent is rendered wonderfully easy; and the view when the summit is gained (where, as far back as 1325, a watch was stationed to give notice of invaders) is so wondrously lovely, that the tourist must not think of passing, even if he ascends merely for the purpose of descending again. Those who have ascended

at St. Rhadegund's path may here descend to the road, or if they choose, continue on the higher level quite to the Niton Shute.

Beyond this point the road is again deep in shade, the banks on either side bright with the delicately-notched leaves of the *geranium lucidum*, and the trailing *toad flax*. To the right is the little square cottage of *Beauchamp*, with its hydrangeas, and in the sweet spring months a wealth of primroses beyond all imagining: to the left is the stately villa known as the *Orchard* (Sir H. P. Gordon), with its terraced gardens (closed to the public), where in 1831 the Duchesses of Angouleme and Berri, with their nephew and niece, the present Count of Chambord and Duchess of Parma, were entertained. At this point the cliff retires from the road, the green slopes on either side of which are sprinkled with huge rock-fragments hurled from above: those to the left, above which may be seen the gables and chimnies of the beautiful cottage of *Puckaster* (Lieut.-General Tucker), are exquisitely picturesque, and invite the artist to linger on his way. To the left lies the little cove of *Puckaster*, a name which some adventurous antiquaries would derive from *Portus Castrensis*, and place amidst the reefs and eddies of this dangerous coast the anchorage of the fleet of vessels which conveyed the tin (brought hither, as they assert, from Cornwall,) to the coast of France. A more probable and pleasing derivation connects it with the tricky spirit whose name is found in *Puckpool*, and not a few places on the mainland. Passing *La Rosiere*, with its Italian campanile, we strike at right angles into the road between the village of Niton and the coast, formed towards the end of the last century over a remarkable depression in the barrier of cliff by the exertions of Mr. Barwis, then Rector, and Mr. Arnold of Mirables; and leaving to our right *West Cliff* (Captain Kerr), with its snowdrop-covered banks, find ourselves at the deservedly celebrated

Sandrock Hotel,

snugly sheltered beneath the wall of cliff, and surrounded by ornamental grounds of no common loveliness. The

tourist may well make this a centre for a day or two while he thoroughly explores the surrounding neighbourhood: under its present manager, Mr. Bush, its old reputation is fully maintained, and there are few more agreeable halting places in the island. This hotel, which stands 258 feet above the sea, a little inland from the southern point of the island, was originally erected as a private residence, but was converted to its present use on the discovery of the aluminous spring in 1807, which it was once hoped would rival the fame of Cheltenham and Tonbridge Wells. Though that expectation has not been fulfilled, the hotel has ever since continued one of the favourite resorts of summer tourists, few of whom give a passing thought to the medicinal spring which called it into existence.

The one great and irremediable fault of the Sandrock Hotel is its distance from the sea; which is all the more felt, as from the rapid fall of the ground the steep intervening slope is quite overlooked, and the shore appears immediately accessible: nor, when the shore is reached by a tedious circuitous track, does it compensate for the length of the way: huge water-worn boulders strew it, rendering walking difficult and painful. In *Reeth Bay*, however, a little to the eastward, is a fine strip of firm sand, above which stands the

Victoria Hotel and Boarding House,

a well conducted establishment, full of charms for those who enjoy perfect retirement, close proximity to the sea, and excellent bathing. Between the two hotels stands *St. Catherine's Terrace*, together with a few recently erected private residences and lodging houses clustering round the *Buddle Inn*, forming an offshoot of the village of Niton.

Niton

was known formerly as Niton Regis, (having been a royal manor from the times of the Confessor), and in later times as Crab Niton, from the abundance of these and other crustaceans on the coast. The village itself, which lies about a mile inland, behind the wall of cliff, is a quiet old-

fashioned place, very little affected by the influx of strangers to the neighbourhood. Its small grey stone houses lie scattered about the head of one of the transverse valleys by which the Southern Chalk Range is from time to time broken, whose bare slopes give little promise of the loveliness to be found hard by. The *Church* (St. John, Rev. G. Hayton, *R.*) is a low building possessing no great attractions, but deserving a visit. It stands picturesquely enough on the rising ground to the west of the village, shaded with fine trees, near the junction of two lanes which by different routes scale St. Catherine's Down. That which runs under the east gable of the church was till 1838 the regular route between Niton and Chale, and the country to the westward; one certainly not to be chosen on stormy nights, or in the dense sea-fogs which often prevail. The church is of the common type: two gabled bodies, with a stone-ribbed south porch, and pleasing tower with low stone spire at the west end, recalling the similar portions at the sister church of Whitwell. There is a real chancel, and chancel arch of Early Decorated character. The arcade dividing the aisles is of the rudest type: the pillars and arches built up in the north wall, indicate the existence of another aisle now destroyed. The opening to the Rood loft, and a plain Piscina, will be noticed. In the chancel is a monument to Mr. Arnold of Mirables, with a medallion by Flaxman, and bas-reliefs by Riou. Some painted glass has been recently inserted. In the churchyard is the octagonal base of the old village Cross.

Niton was one of the six churches given by Wm. Fitz-Osborne to the Abbey of Lire, shortly after the Conquest. At the Dissolution it fell to the Crown, and was one of the benefices granted by Charles I. to Queen's College, Oxford, on the petition of Henrietta Maria. (See p. 88). The vicarages of Godshill and Whitwell are united to it.

The parish, which contains much good corn land, comprises 1397 acres: its population in 1801 was 288; in 1841 613; and at the last census 684.

There is a small inn of humble pretensions, the *White Lion*, and the village is the centre of many pleasant walks,

which may, however, be reached with almost equal ease from the Sandrock or Victoria Hotels. The scenery is not striking, but it is full of quiet beauty, all the pleasanter from being out of the ordinary route of the tourists.

Walk to Whitwell, &c.

There is a pleasant walk across the fields by the sources of the Yar to Whitwell; where, if we take the lane which leads to Nettlecombe at the bottom of the village, and turn speedily to the left, the old manor-house of *Stenbury* may be reached, whence we may ramble across the fields by *Ford Mill* to *Whitcombe*, and thence return to Niton.

Walk to Hoy's Pillar and St. Catherine's Down.

Another pleasant stroll is across Niton Down to the *Hermitage* (T. Hawkins, Esq.), familiar to the readers of Miss Sewell's "*Ursula*" as "*Dene*;" built under the steep slope of St. Catherine's Down, by Michael Hoy, a Russian merchant, to whom the island is also indebted for the so-called *Alexandrian Pillar*, a column of the Roman Doric order 72 feet high, surmounted by a ball, which crowns the steep escarpment of the Down above, and forms a conspicuous object in all the scenery round. A steep path through the plantations behind the house leads to the base of the pillar, 600 feet above the sea, on the north face of which a tablet records the original purpose of its erection, viz., to commemorate the visit of the Emperor Alexander of Russia to England in 1814, "in remembrance of many years' happy residence in his dominions." A tablet lately affixed to the south face by Lieut. H. W. Dawes of the 22nd foot, in honour of the English soldiers who fell in the Crimea, rather incongruously forces the Russian column to commemorate the enemies of Russia. From this point, which commands a fine inland view nearly over the whole island, we may proceed along the ridge of the narrow spur which the main mass of the Down sends off northwards to the summit of

St. Catherine's Down,

769 feet above the sea. This is, however, more usually and conveniently attained either from Blackgang or by

the lane already mentioned below Niton Church, which is still practicable for wheeled carriages in dry weather. St. Catherine's, which, if not the highest, (a pre-eminence given by the Ordnance Corps to St. Boniface Down, 783·9 feet above the sea) is the most conspicuous elevation in the whole island, has been for ages invested with the kind of sanctity which often attaches to lofty peaks and mountain tops. The legend of the transference of the decapitated body of St. Catherine from Alexandria by angelic hands to the summit of Mount Sinai, which has stamped itself on the Jebel Katherin *, was probably brought from Palestine by the Crusaders, and traces of it are to be met with in different parts of Europe, where lofty elevations often bear the name of the Alexandrian saint. This isolated spot was, at least as early as the fourteenth century, the residence of an anchorite ; for there is record in 1312 of the admission of one Walter Langstrell "to the hermitage on the Down of Chale." † Eleven years afterwards, 1323, a chapel was erected on the spot by Walter de Godyton, who added an endowment for a priest to sing masses for his soul and the souls of his ancestors, and to provide lights at night to warn off ships from approaching too near this dangerous coast. Both duties were performed till the Reformation, when no little that was good was swept away with the evil in the general purifying convulsion, the useful too often sharing the fate of the superstitions with which it had been connected, and the lights ceased as well as the masses. The little belfry, from the summit of which shone the priest's lamps, whose faint gleams were often blessed by the anxious mariner, is an octagonal structure, 35 feet high, with a pyramidal roof. The chapel and hermitage have entirely disappeared, but its foundations were excavated in 1757 by Sir Richard Worsley, and are still to be traced. At the same time, the floor and stone hearth of the priest's little cell were discovered at the south-west angle, and the tower received so thorough a repair, that it appears capable of braving the stormy blasts,

* Stanley's "Sinai and Palestine," p. 45.

† Winchester Register.

which rage with no common fury at this elevation, for another century. A new lighthouse was commenced hard by, about 1780, by the Trinity Board. At the time sailors expressed a doubt whether it would be of any service, in consequence of the dense mists which enwrap the down in stormy weather, when the light is most needed, and recommended its being erected on the beach * ; but Government Boards are deaf to advice, and the lighthouse was proceeded with, though never finished ; and the empty shell remains a conspicuous memorial of the manner in which public money is too often wasted on ill-judged schemes.

“The view from the hill,” writes Mr. Thorne, “is of wondrous extent, reaching over by far the larger part of the island, and including the New Forest and the hills of Hampshire, and the south coast as far as Beachy Head. In the opposite direction, the high lands about Cherbourg are said to be occasionally seen, but it is a very rare occurrence.” To the east the bare chalk downs hide all view of the picturesque Undercliff, but are themselves a noble object, with the low sinuous valleys, often shaggy with dark furze, winding among the slopes. To the west, the eye embraces the whole curve of the south-west coast, closed in by the low red cliffs, broken and jagged, which run out in the headland of *Atherfield*, between Chale and Brighstone Bays, and into the more distant projection of Brook Point, above which the white cliffs of Compton Bay may be seen gleaming in the sunshine ; further still rise the noble cliffs of *Freshwater*, “standing out against the sky, when the sun shines on them, until they almost dazzle the eye ; and at other times covering themselves as it were with a veil of mist, and looking out proudly from behind it.” † The view inland, though extensive, is not so interesting ; you look over the broad undulations of the greensand valley, a somewhat barren-looking country, and wanting in wood, but not without a charm, especially when the golden harvest is ripening, and the clouds drifting over the sky cast their broad shadow

* Pennant's “Journey from London to the Isle of Wight,” p. 188.

† Miss Sewell's “Ursula,” p. 15.

across it. To the north, the view extends down the Medina, which rises at our feet, an inconsiderable rill, as far as Newport, and beyond it to the estuary and the white houses of Cowes at its mouth, with the opposite coast and the far distant hills losing themselves in a soft purple haze.

CHAPTER VII.

SOUTH-WESTERN COAST.

The Chines, &c.

Route 71. Niton to Blackgang Chine, by Rocken End and Cliff.

72. " " " " Road.

73. Blackgang to Walpen and Whale Chines, Atherfield, Cowleaze, Shepherd's, Barnes, and Grange Chines, by the shore.

74. The same, by the Cliff Path.

75. Blackgang to Chale, Kingston, Shorwell, and Brighstone, Mottiston, Brook, and Freshwater Gate.

76. Brighstone to Calbourne.

77. Brook Point to Compton Bay and Freshwater Gate.

Route 71. Niton to Blackgang. (1½ mile.)

Till the formation of the road from the Sandrock to Blackgang, in 1838, the traveller, on reaching Niton, was completely cut off from further progress along the coast westward. As late as 1813 Cooke * complains of the difficulty of access to the newly-discovered Sandrock Spring, "there being no carriage road, or even pathway" to it. "The approach" to the spring was "by a steep descent through vast masses of broken rock, and the ruggedness of the lofty cliff." Thence "a narrow path, almost imperceptible in some places," wound its way along the sides of the cliffs, and presented "the nearest road from the spring to Blackgang." In consequence of the growing fame of the "*Aluminous Chalybeate Spring*," which at one time promised

* New Picture of Isle of Wight.

a panacea for all human ailments, a road was constructed "with great labour, by voluntary subscription, for the convenience of reaching it."* This road terminated about a mile from the Sandrock Hotel, whence a winding footpath led to the spring below. The route was then "from the spring to the shore, whence the tourist soon reached the Chine." At the present time, in spite of the elaborate analyses and reports of Doctors Lempriere and Marcet, of the past generation, and the assurance of Dr. Martin, in our own days, that "in general properties it rivals the most famous in England," the Sandrock Spring is forgotten,—the little cottage, erected by the roadside by its discoverer (Mr. Waterworth, surgeon, of Newport), is passed unnoticed, —not one traveller out of a hundred cares to inquire about it, or remarks the little grotto which points out its source, perched on the side of the cliff midway between the upper and lower road to Blackgang. Nevertheless, we owe to it the establishment of a good hotel and the formation of an excellent road, and are bound to view the spring with grateful regard, even if we decline to disorder our digestion by partaking of its nauseous streams.

Leaving the Sandrock Hotel, and taking the first turning to the left, passing St. Catherine's Terrace, we reach St. Catherine's Lighthouse, erected in 1840 on the southernmost extremity of the island. The need of it which existed has been demonstrated by the fact that, while previous to its establishment there have been as many as *fourteen* vessels wrecked in a single night in Chale Bay, and though even now such casualties are not unknown, there has been no *serious* disaster of the kind since it has shown its warning light. The height of the lantern from the ground is 121 feet; from the sea level more than 200: its light has been seen at a distance of 27 miles. From the lighthouse a cliff-path leads to *Watershoot Bay*, a picturesque little cove, with boat-house and capstan, and thence to *Rocken End*, a wild spot, strewn with huge blocks of sandstone, over which, and the formidable reef which extends from the point, causing the dreaded "Rocken End Race,"

• Bullar's Guide.

the sea dashes with uncontrollable fury in stormy weather, sending vast sheets of spray into the air. The place should be visited, if possible, when a strong south-west wind is blowing and the tide setting in.

Beyond Rocken End the walk may be continued along the cliff or by the shore to Blackgang. Laborious as the latter is rendered by the loose rolling shingle, through which one has almost to wade, no one who takes any interest in the geological features of the island, can afford to miss it. The natural stratification, which has been concealed since leaving Bonchurch, by the ruins of the Undercliff, reappears, and nothing can exceed the beautiful regularity with which bed after bed of the Neocomian formation rises from the shore as we advance, trending upwards with a gradual slope, which in due time brings them to the summit of the cliff. The point where the thin hard bed of sandstone, which forms the cascade at the Chine, rises from the shingle, is one of much interest, as its marked character allows us to trace it distinctly in its gradual ascent. This walk must only be attempted at ebb tide. The cliff walk is little less rough, the whole of the ground over which it leads us being of a most treacherous character, yawning in ugly cracks and gaping chasms, and ever and anon sinking in a partial landslip. The coast-guardsmen have placed whitened stones at intervals to guide them in their nightly patrols, which will serve to direct the wanderer by day, though he is liable at any point to lose the path altogether, and to have to make his way, as he best can, over tussocks of coarse grass, in the midst of a stream of unctuous mud. The savage wildness of the scene, however, and the fine coast views, will reward him for any amount of rough scrambling in reaching the Chine.

Route 72. Niton to Blackgang, by the Road.

From the Sandrock Hotel the coast has a south-west exposure, open to the full force of the gales which rage here with tremendous fury during the winter months. The change of aspect is immediately evidenced by the transition from the rich verdure of the eastern part of the Undercliff,

to an aspect bare and bleak in the extreme. *Gore Cliff* rises almost vertically to the right: below are treeless terraces and rugged slopes, forming a chaos of desolate barrenness. There is perhaps no spot in the whole six or seven miles of the Undercliff which affords so good an opportunity of examining the geological structure of the Cretaceous system as here developed. The strata rise much higher, and the whole thickness of the upper greensand is visible at one glance, with a portion of the white chalk and ehloritic marl above, and the blue marl or gault, which is seldom seen, *in situ*, below. Above the marl Mr. Bristow has remarked a lacustrine bed, "formed of a hard deposit of calcareous mud about nine feet thick, containing an abundance of specimens of recent land shells." *

The Great Landslip of 1799.

We are now entering on the scene of devastation caused by the great landslip which occurred in February, 1799. "The ground lies in waves or folds like the billows of an agitated ocean; or perhaps it still more nearly resembles turf broken up by the action of an enormous plough." † This slip was not accompanied by any fall of the cliff above, but consisted in a sliding towards the sea of the whole confused mass of rocks and soil which lie below, owing to the same cause which has been already repeatedly referred to—the action of the land springs on the gault—which is here much thicker, and rises considerably higher than in any other part of the formation; the furious waves at the same time assisting in the work by carrying off the talus of mud and rocks as it was formed, and leaving the shore clear for further slips.

A letter, giving a simple but graphic account of the catastrophe, was published at the time in the "*Isle of Wight Magazine*," and though it has been reprinted again and again, we cannot omit making some quotations from it. It was written to the unlucky proprietor of the farm known as *Pitlands*, which was the scene of the devastation, and which

* Forbes and Bristow, p. 106.

† Englefield p. 76.

appears to have been almost entirely destroyed by it. "The whole of the ground from the cliff above," the writer informs the landlord, "was seen in motion, which motion was directed towards the sea nearly in a straight line. The ground above, beginning with a great founder from the base of the cliff, kept gliding down, and at last rushed on with violence, and totally changed the surface of all the ground to the west of the brook that runs into the sea, so that now the whole is convulsed and scattered about as if it had been done by an earthquake: of all the rough ground from the cottage upwards to the cliff, there is scarcely a foot of land which has not changed its situation: the whole may be called one grand and awful ruin — there are everywhere chasms that a horse or cow might sink into and disappear." Mr. Barwis, who was at the time rector of Niton, writing shortly after the slip, says,—“the whole effect was produced by a silent and quiet settlement, . . . which carried with it the surface of nearly 100 acres, breaking and tossing the whole about into innumerable fragments. In its course it took the cottage fixed up as an occasional tea-drinking place by Mr. Arnold, which it nearly swallowed up, except the chimney, which, though sunk into the ground, still stands on its foundation.” The present appearance of the tract is forlorn and dreary; a mangled surface, where coarse vegetation hardly conceals the black marl, and large blocks of rock increase the wildness of the scene. Plantations have been made in various parts; but the young trees are bent and stunted by the south-west gales, and scarcely diminish the general desolation.

As we advance under the towering cliff, the tourist will notice an enormous mass of rock, as large as a good-sized cottage, to the left of the road, and a glance at the raw face of the cliff above shows the place from which it fell. It formerly overhung the road in a somewhat threatening manner, and lest its sudden fall should cause some serious disaster, it was removed by blasting in 1853. In its descent it brought with it a large portion of the adjacent rock, and spread devastation all around. The road was entirely destroyed, and in consequence of the usual vents of the

land-springs being choked, the whole of the soil in the vicinity became one vast quagmire, and slipped bodily a considerable distance towards the sea. A new road has now been formed, and extensive draining operations have been carried on in the vicinity, by which the productiveness and stability of the ground has been much improved, and no further slips are now to be apprehended. The ground is indeed considered sufficiently firm for building on, and several large and handsome houses, besides numerous smaller ones, and a terrace of lodging-houses beyond Blackgang, ornament these wild and once treacherous slopes. Few positions can be more bleak or uninviting in winter, but in summer the extreme purity of the air renders this once solitary and desolate spot a delightful and healthful resort. The sea views are at all times magnificent.

A little past the block of rock just mentioned, a road, descending to the left, crosses Blackgang Chine half-way down, and gives access to *Southlands* (Sir H. Johnson), and the other residences on the cliff. The road is not so good as the upper one, but it is perfectly safe, and is to be recommended, not only to the geologist, for the fine sections of the lower greensand strata it presents, but to the ordinary tourist, from the superior wildness of the slopes over which it passes, and from considerably diminishing the toilsome descent of the Chine.

Those who take the upper and more usual road enjoy a splendid view of the whole south-west coast of the island, with its wide-sweeping bays and projecting headlands, from Rocken End to the snowy cliffs of Freshwater, with the Needles to the extreme west. On a clear day, the opposite coast of Dorsetshire, the Isle of Purbeck, and St. Aldhelm's Head, may be seen, and in the furthest distance Portland lies like a blue cloud on the horizon. The nearest headland, marked by the coast-guard station, is *Atherfield*, next to that is *Brook Point*, above which may be seen the white cliffs of *Compton Bay*, breaking down to the sea level at *Freshwater Gate*, and rising again to *Freshwater Down*.

After passing the Preventive station, the tourist reaches

the *Blackgang Hotel* (1½ mile from the Sandrock Hotel), at the head of the far-famed

Blackgang Chine,

which, to the annoyance of every lover of the picturesque, is entered through a kind of toy-shop or bazaar, from which visitors are expected to make some trifling purchase, in return for the privilege of descending the well-kept paths. A long building adjacent contains the skeleton of a whale which was cast on shore in Gurnard Bay some fourteen or fifteen years since; it has been well put together, and deserves a visit.

This is one of the great lions of the Isle of Wight, which everybody sees, and with which almost everybody is disappointed. So much has been said about its "savage grandeur," "its gloomy horrors," — "nature in all her primeval wildness," &c. &c., that when the visitor finds no more than a bare ravine, of no very great depth, with crumbling sides of dirty-looking sandstone and blue-black clay,—and discovers that the "cascade whose bright waters contrast with the gloomy cave behind," is the tiniest of dribblets, falling in a shower of drops over a dark semi-circular recess in the cliff, he is inclined to dub the whole an imposture, and refuse it its due meed of admiration. The roads and paths which have been formed, the houses and walls which have been built, and the other marks of habitation which surround it, have greatly detracted from the original wildness of the scene; but those who come with moderate expectations, and try to forget all the prints of it they have seen, representing a grand cascade dashing over an awful precipice black as night, will find a very remarkable ravine, presenting some striking features, both during the descent and at the bottom, which will certainly repay them for their trouble and fatigue. Mr. Thorne * describes it faithfully enough: "The ravine is bare of tree or shrub; but it does not retreat far enough—there is not depth enough for solemnity or gloom, at least in ordinary weather. A sort of semicircular comb has been

* "Land we Live in," i. 272.

hollowed out in the dark marl, over the top of which"—where a firm group of ferruginous beds has stopt the eroding action of the streamlet—"a thin line of water falls lazily, from a height of 74 feet, and is dissipated before it reaches the 'gloomy vault' below. The rocks, instead of the deep black the tourist was led to anticipate, are of a dingy brown, banded with lines of sandy strata. The banks on either side are of but mean height and lumpish form." The tourist is fortunate who sees Blackgang during a storm: the sea always runs very high upon the coast, breaking upon the beach in a line of snowy surf, the *back-draught* of which is so powerful as to take a person off his legs, and in stormy weather place him in some danger; but in a gale of wind from the south-west, the line of breakers exhibits waves of a larger size and more magnificent motion than on almost any other part of the English coast. The waves often dash with terrific fury quite into the hollow of the Chine, whence they ascend into the air in dense clouds of spray. Bathing here is almost always dangerous, and should not be attempted.

Geologically, the Chine is one of great interest. A fissure has been worn by the action of the insignificant streamlet through the soft strata of the lower greensand system, and stopped in its downward progress by a thin layer of ironstone grit, which constitutes "as it were a line of demarcation between the upper arenaceous deposits and the lower more argillaceous group."* In the upper part of the chasm, "the bands of greenish greysand and sandstone, which alternate with ferruginous clays, appear very prominent, owing to the wearing away of the soft and friable intermediate beds." The sandstone, after exposure to the weather, separates into square blocks, which renders the appearance of those projecting bands of stone, which are from 10 to 15 feet thick, very striking. Sir H. Englefield compares them, aptly enough, to courses of masonry built up at different heights to support the mouldering cliffs. Looking westwards from the road, midway up the Chine,

* Mantell, p. 173.

along the ruinous cliffs, it will be seen that their base is protected by a kind of rough marshy undercliff, "produced by the alternation of solid or permeable strata with others more retentive of moisture . . . the water thus kept up carries off a part of the lower mass, undermining that above, the result being the production of a shelf or terrace." * The base of the Chine was till very recently similarly protected, and the intelligent keeper of the Chine, William Wheeler (from whom much information respecting the fossils of the neighbourhood may be obtained, and who has usually some good specimens on sale), had erected a cottage on the terrace. But violent gales during the last two years have carried nearly the whole away; the cottage is removed to a higher and safer position; and as the ground at the base of the Chine is gradually sinking *en masse*, perhaps another winter will see this breakwater entirely removed, and the waves dashing every tide into the chasm of the Chine. Such a continuous violent action cannot fail to produce some remarkable alterations in the Chine and the ravine above, which the geologist will watch with considerable interest.

Wrecks.

This coast, till the erection of the St. Catherine's Lighthouse in 1840, was sadly celebrated for shipwrecks, and the inhabitants in old time had a bad character as *wreckers*, more eager for gain than for the preservation of the lives of the unfortunate beings cast on their inhospitable coast. The most terrible on record was that of the "Clarendon," West Indiaman, of 350 tons, on her homeward voyage, Oct. 11th, 1836, with 11 passengers and 17 seamen. The preceding evening had been fine and the wind favourable; but a storm arose after midnight, and the ship driving rapidly before it, in the absence of the warning light which now beams from St. Catherine's Point, about daybreak the crew found their vessel in the surf, without a possibility of escape. A little before six she struck, and within five minutes was a total wreck. The ship was scarcely twice

* Fitton, Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., vol. iii. p. 290.

her own length from the cliff, but the catastrophe was too sudden to allow any measures to be taken for the rescue of the crew or passengers, all of whom perished with the exception of the mate and two seamen. Lieutenant Shore, with his family, and two or three others of the passengers, were buried at Newport; the rest of the bodies lie in the churchyard of Chale. A Dutch galliot, the "Diana Jans," was driven on shore here Feb. 24th, 1830; one of the crew, Hendrick Karsies by name, swam on shore with a rope attached to a spar, and was the means of saving his comrades. During the fearful gale of Nov. 1st, 1859, the "Lelia" of London, bringing a cargo of sponges, &c., from the West Indies, went on shore between Blackgang and Rocken End. Through the gallantry of a young man named Frederick Wheeler, (whose father had been instrumental in saving the few rescued from the "Clarendon",) who let himself down over the cliffs by a rope, all the crew, seven in number, were saved, with the exception of one poor fellow who had been disabled by the fall of a mast. The coast for days afterwards was strewn with sponges, affording a rich harvest to the neighbourhood.

Among the yellow and black water-worn shingle which covers the shore to a considerable depth, gold dust and Spanish dollars have been found, the memorials of some wreck long since forgotten.

SOUTH-WESTERN COAST — CHINES.

No portion of the Isle of Wight has been so much and so undeservedly neglected as the coast between Blackgang Chine and Freshwater Gate, which, though wanting in the romantic scenery of the Undercliff, or the colossal grandeur of the western promontory, presents in its beetling cliffs, bold headlands, and sinuous chines, features of great and peculiar interest which are well worthy of attention. To the geologist, the researches of Sir John Herschel and the venerable Dr. Fitton have made it classic ground, and he will need little exhortation to induce him to institute a close examination of the remarkable strata, which rise with such striking regularity, and present themselves with such beautiful distinctness, between Rocken End and Compton Bay. In order to do this satisfactorily, it will be advisable for him to make the comfortable Blackgang Hotel his head-quarters for a day or two, and when he has fully examined the coast as far as Atherfield or Cowleaze Chine, move on to the little inn at Brighstone, and investigate the more westerly portion between Barnes, Brook, and Compton. In William Wheeler, who resides in Blackgang Chine, he will find an active and intelligent guide, well acquainted with the points best deserving notice along the coast, and the most prolific fossil beds.

Nor will the unscientific tourist, whose object is the picturesque, have any cause to regret having deviated from the beaten inland tract for the cliff. Few walks, even in this romantic island, are more delightful, and it is a cause of regret that of the crowds of intelligent visitors who every season pass by the high road from Blackgang to Freshwater, so few turn aside to inspect a district so rich in natural beauty, and teeming with objects of interest to the instructed observer.

The obvious reason for this otherwise inexplicable neglect of so attractive a district in an island where every object that has the slightest claims to attention is duly made the most of, is its remoteness from a high road, and the diffi-

culty of access to some of the most interesting localities. From Chale Church the road usually pursued strikes inland, keeping at a considerable distance from the sea until it reaches Brook; and though there is a road which approaches nearer the coast, it is still far enough removed to preclude any view of its more remarkable features; so that year after year crowds of tourists pass westwards complaining that all is barren, without suspecting that they are within reach of objects which will amply repay any little delay or difficulty which may be requisite to reach them. Many to whom the Isle of Wight is most familiar, and who imagine that they are acquainted with everything of interest it contains, have never even heard of *Walpen*, or *Whale Chine*, and would be surprised to learn that within so short a distance of Blackgang, which is visited and abused by almost everybody, are chines fully equal to it in natural features, and far superior in having been left in their native savageness unmarred by the hand of man. *Cowleaze* and *Shepherd's Chines* are of a less gloomy character, but they have a wildness peculiarly their own, and will reward examination; while the bold headland of *Atherfield* is one of the most striking points on the whole coast of the island, from the noble views it commands in each direction, besides being a locality of the highest geological importance.

Route 73. Blackgang to Atherfield, Barnes, and Grange, by the Shore.

The geological student can hardly carry on his investigations except from the shore at the base of the cliffs, and he will discover enough of interest to repay him for his fatigue. But truth obliges us to say that it is not a walk to be recommended to any but those who have a strong incentive in the pursuit of a favourite science. The distance is not great — 4 miles to *Atherfield Point*, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ to *Grange Chine*, Barnes lying midway between the two; but the shore is covered to a considerable depth with shingle, which has been worn by the surge to such a degree of smoothness and mobility that the foot sinks and slides at every step, and

progress is slow and laborious. Added to this, the bays having a south-west exposure, the sun's rays are concentrated by reflection; so that the heat at the base of the cliffs is in the after part of the day almost unbearable, and greatly increases the feeling of exhaustion. Even the keen geologist, by the time he has reached Atherfield, will begin to feel he has had enough, and be inclined to ascend at the Point and return homewards by the cliff, while for the ordinary tourist the most advisable course is not to attempt the shore at all, but to keep on the heights the whole way, only descending now and then when a convenient path offers, to view the cliffs from below, and to gather a few fossils.

Route. 74. Blackgang to Walpen, Shepherd's, and Whale Chines, Atherfield Point, Shepherd's and Cowleaze Chines, Barnes and Grange Chine, by the Cliff Path.

Hardly anything can be conceived more delightful than a walk on a fine bright morning along these breezy cliffs, with the springy turf, bright with the rosy blossoms of the Sea Pink, and the various kinds of Stone-crop, giving elasticity to your tread, and the fresh air from the sea blowing away the sense of fatigue, and imparting ever fresh vigour. The view on either hand is noble, and continually varying with the curvature of the coast. The whole south-west sea-board of the island from Rocken End to the Needles stretches out in long line, with the angry waves surging and boiling against the jagged cliffs, while the huge mass of St. Catherine's, with its mural escarpment, rises above, and as we advance the central range of the Chalk Downs comes into view, and gives beauty and variety to the inland prospect.

Entering the coastguard path near the lower gate of Blackgang Chine, we continue along the cliff, taking care to remark how the hard bed of ironstone grit which forms the little cascade at Blackgang gradually rises to the top, and stops the downward course of gullies that would otherwise have become chines. This is particularly noticeable at one point, about midway between Blackgang and

Walpen Chines, where the surface drainage has carried away the clay and sand in a wide, shallow, bowl-shaped cavity, and where a good lesson in physical geography may be learnt from its miniature river-systems and watersheds. We advance along the brink of *Walpen High Cliff*, about 184 feet above the sea, and soon reach

Walpen Chine,

a dark sullen chasm worn through the friable strata by a tiny streamlet which one would have imagined equally powerless for good or for ill. The cliffs being higher, the gorge is deeper and more precipitous than in the chines to the westward, nor does it extend so far inland. Its almost vertical sides present fine sections of the successive strata of the lower greensand system, varying greatly in colour and hardness.

A very short distance further along the cliff brings us to

Ladder Chine,

deriving its name from the only mode of descent in former years to the huts and beach below. Small as the stream is at Walpen it is here smaller still, and our surprise is excited at the extensive work of destruction which has been carried on in a loose soil by so insignificant an agent. The Chine forms in its upper part a broad bowl-shaped hollow, spreading far inland in digitated gorges, scooped out of the sand by the winter rains, which are continually widening and deepening their channels. The lower part of the chasm contracts rapidly, and is reduced to a mere fissure, "by the firmness of a group of sandstone including nodules in great numbers" (*Fitton*). A rough zigzag path leads down the side of the bowl, and crossing a rustic bridge enables us to mount again to the top of the cliff (here about 160 feet high), or to descend by a rock staircase to a marshy platform of clay and retentive sand, overgrown with a jungle of reeds and the tall fronds of the "King of the Ferns," which has outlasted the destruction of the adjacent strata. A fisherman's hut here, with his boats and lobster-pots, &c., is an attractive object for the pencil. Continuing

along this kind of natural terrace, we reach the eastern bastion (about 140 feet high) of

Whale Chine,

which we scale by another breakneck staircase, landing us on the verge of the gloomy chasm, certainly one of the finest, as it is one of the most considerable, of the island Chines. The width at its mouth is about 180 feet, and it extends full a quarter of a mile from the shore, and is rapidly eating its way further and further inland. It is formed, like those which we have already visited, by a small brook which makes its way to the sea along the dark sullen gorge, which it is continually deepening and widening, as it undermines its rugged crumbling sides, on which scarcely a trace of vegetation is to be seen. The view down the Chine should be specially noticed, for the sake of contrast between the savage ravine and the bright azure sheet of ocean which fills up its mouth.

We have approached these Chines by the cliff; those who have not time or strength for the delightful walk should drive from Chale Church to *Walpen Farm*, (about a mile,) from which they are readily accessible by a short walk across the fields.

After rounding the head of the Chine, which takes us some distance from the cliffs, we strike across the fields and soon find ourselves once more on the verge of the mouldering precipice, at an elevation of about 129 feet, along which the path conducts us to

Atherfield Point,

the bold headland seen so prominently from Blackgang, dividing the bays of Chale and Brighstone. Its projection is due to a bed of rock of considerable compactness and durability, abounding in *gryphites*, *nautili*, and other lower greensand fossils, which serves "as a sort of oblique girder, giving solidity to the whole mass" (*Fitton*), and runs far out into thesea, (forming the much-dreaded *Atherfield Race*,) in a ledge of blue slaty clay which is little more than a concreted mass of fossil bivalves, breaking into thin hard slabs, much used for paving, on which, at low water, the

naturalist will find many interesting specimens of sea anemones and seaweeds. Though the foundation of Atherfield Point is solid the upper part is most pitifully feeble, formed in great part of "loose incoherent blue-grey muddy clay" (*Fitton*), which is continually shifting and sinking, and overwhelming the important fossil beds at the base of the cliff with great hummocky lumps of treacherous soil, with patches of grass sticking out here and there, as the hungry sea, which ages since scooped out the bays which indent it, devours its gigantic but frail barrier.

On the headland stands a *Coastguard Station*, and on the very point there is a small wooden house, with a clean bow-windowed room, commanding a glorious view, where the tourist may rest and refresh himself with the provisions he has brought with him, to which the worthy Mrs. Wearne will cheerfully contribute anything within her limited means.

A very precipitous and rugged path leads on the west side of the point to the beach below, where, after high spring tides have laid the beds bare, some of the most remarkable fossils of the island may be found. The *Astacoid* or *Lobster-bed* produces very interesting specimens of fossil crustaceans, sometimes beautifully perfect.

Atherfield is accessible in a carriage by the lower road between Blackgang and Shorwell, and in dry weather it is perfectly practicable to drive quite to the point, though the road is one of the roughest.

A short distance beyond Atherfield Point is the point of junction between the marine formation of the *lower green-sand* and the freshwater beds of the *Wealden*, which will be examined with much interest by the geological student. The various strata in their regular succession are beautifully exhibited in the next Chines which we reach, about a mile further on, known as

Shepherd's and Cowleaze Chines,

which are among the most picturesque of the ravines which seam the coast. The history of their formation is curious, and shows the ease with which important changes are effected in a coast composed of strata of so little compact-

ness. They both owe their origin to a tolerably copious stream, having its rise near the village of Kingston, which now finds its way to the sea by the more direct course of Shepherd's Chine, but seventy years since wound its way along the now green and dry ravine which runs parallel to the shore towards the west, and issued out on the beach at Cowleaze Chine. The cause of the change was simply that a shepherd, desiring to secure the eels which were to be found in the mud at the bottom of the stream, cut through the soft and narrow barrier which divided the ravines, and diverted the water, with the full intention of restoring the stream to its old bed when he had filled his creels; but heavy rains coming on, the brook soon deepened its new channel beyond the possibility of restoration, and has by degrees formed a new Chine, named from its unintentional creator, leaving its former course deserted and dry. These Chines are broader and shallower than those we have already visited; there is less of wildness and more of pastoral softness, in keeping with their names. The path crosses Shepherd's Chine and descends into that of Cowleaze, the head of which is remarkably picturesque; a broad bed of yellow sandstone of the "Hastings series" crops out, dividing into blocks like courses of masonry, and by its comparative hardness giving rise to some singular effects where the springs ooze through the upper strata, furnishing the artist with admirable studies of form and colour.

Beyond Cowleaze Chine the coast offers but little variety and no very prominent features. The cliffs are now entirely of the Wealden formation (which continues to Compton Bay on the other side of Brook Point), and form a low nearly uniform range of a dull reddish hue, broken by gloomy ravines and shallow recesses of the same character as those already described, of which the principal is

Barnes Chine,

a savage-looking rent in the cliffs, which here rise to a considerable elevation, known as *Barnes High*. Off Barnes is the dangerous reef of *Shipledge* (consisting of sandstone beds with concretions of subcalcareous grit), of melancholy noto-

riety in the annals of wrecks: the traditional loss of a Dutch vessel in this locality has given its name to *Dutchman's Hole*, where to this day, at particular states of the tide, when a ground-swell has laid the rocks bare, gold coins are found. Less than a mile further brings us to *Grange Chine*, below the village of *Brighstone*, whence we may return by carriage to Blackgang, unless we prefer to take up our quarters for the night at the *New Inn* at *Brighstone*, in order to follow the coast westwards to Brook and Compton on the morrow.

Route 75. Blackgang to Chale ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile), Kingston (3 miles), Shorwell (5 miles), and Brighstone (7 miles).

Half a mile from the Blackgang Hotel stands *Chale Church* (St. Andrew, Rev. A. Gother, V.), founded, A.D. 1114, by Hugh de Vernon, nephew of Baldwin de Redvers, "Lord of the Isle," but retaining no trace of the original building. Its position is singularly bleak and naked, unrelieved by a single tree, and its outline low and heavy. The Perpendicular tower is very good — probably the work of the same architect with those of Carisbrook and Gatcombe—and deserves notice. The plan is that so common in the island, of two equal bodies with no constructional chancel: there is not much to interest in the interior, which, though well kept, is sadly spoilt with pews and whitewash; the visitor will notice the roodloft opening, the Piscina at the south-east angle, and the niche (probably for an image) in the splay of the north window. There is a handsome monument to Major-General Sir Henry Worsley of the Bengal army. In the churchyard repose many of the passengers and crew of the "Clarendon."

Chale parish contains 2379 acres, taken by Hugh de Vernon out of Carisbrook. In 1841 the population was 610; at the last census 629.

A short distance beyond the church, under the shelter of St. Catherine's Down, stands *Chale Farm*, one of the most interesting architectural relics in the island, though its ancient features are much obscured in the adaptation of the house to modern requirements. The outline of the hall

may be traced, and there is a good two-light Decorated window in the gable next the road leading to the Down. The stone newel staircase, and the arched fireplace of the principal room, deserve attention. There is a noble buttressed barn of almost ecclesiastical appearance, 100 feet by 30, somewhat injured by necessary modern repairs.

From the Farm the old road between Chale and Niton climbs the Down, practicable for carriages in dry weather.

From Chale we have the choice of two roads, of about equal length, to Shorwell, one passing through Atherfield and the other through Kingston; that by Atherfield is nearer the coast, but unattractive, though affording the nearest point of approach in a carriage to the Chines described in the last Route, stopping at *Walpen Farm*, for Walpen, Ladder, and Whale Chines, and at *Little Atherfield* for those of Shepherd's and Cowleaze.

That by *Kingston*, which we pursue, leads to *Stroud Green*, (a pretty spot, where the main road bears away to the right towards Newport,) and turns abruptly to the left and climbs the steep side of Kingston Down (a wave of the lower greensand formation) by a pleasant narrow lane, whose red banks are draped with the Black Spleenwort and other ferns, and bright with flowers, and runs along its ridge to the little village of

Kingston (2 miles),

from which a road to the right leads by Billingham and Chillerton to Newport (Route 26). The visitor should turn aside and spend a few minutes in examining the little low *Church* perched on the hill to the left, and the picturesque *Manor-House* which lies at its foot, the demesnes of which include the entire parish, containing no more than 65 souls over 883 acres. The church (Rev. J. B. Atkinson, *R.*), is one of the smallest and rudest in the island. The east window, which has been well restored, and together with the two side windows filled with stained glass in memory of the Worsleys of Billingham, is good Early English. On the north wall is a brass, removed from the pavement, with the effigies of Sir Richard Mews and his three sons, A. D. 1535.

The road to the left leads to Dungewood, and Cowleaze Chine, better suited for carts than carriages.

Descending the hill, and crossing an undulating ridge of furzy down, gay with harebells, and foxgloves, and various-coloured stonecrops, where the soft ferruginous sandstone is continually cropping out in large blocks, with the central chain of Chalk Downs gradually coming down nearer and nearer to us on the right, we soon come in sight of the pretty village of

Shorwell ($1\frac{1}{2}$ mile),

with its grey-spired church and venerable mansions nestling in a richly-wooded hollow at the mouth of one of the transverse valleys of the chalk range, stretching up by Roughborough and Bowcombe to Carisbrooke (Route 27). The view of the village as we descend into it is one of uncommon beauty, and the tourist should halt to inspect the church (which is one of the most interesting in the island, carefully restored by the late vicar, the Rev. E. Robertson,) and stroll about the pretty neighbourhood. The parish of Shorwell contains 3685 acres. Its population in 1801, was 402; in 1841, 714; but in 1851 it had fallen to 678.

The *Church* (St. Peter, Rev. T. Renwick, *V.*), appears to have been erected in the reign of Edward III., when the parish was taken out of Carisbrook, on a petition of the inhabitants, setting forth, among other reasons, "the inconvenience of having to carry their dead four miles for burial in winter, when they were obliged to pass through the water in Idlecombe Lane, and the death of one person was the occasion of many more."

It is a picturesque building of three equal bodies, with a tower and spire (the apex singularly distorted) at the west end. Some of the windows contain very good tracery, and nearly the whole are filled with modern stained glass. The arcades dividing the aisles are low and rude, and the church is deficient in height, but the general effect is pleasing. The objects specially worthy of attention are the panelled *stone pulpit*, with its rich Jacobean canopy (1620)

and iron hour-glass frame, approached by a staircase through one of the piers,—the fresco of *St. Christopher* (1377) over the north door immediately opposite the principal entrance (a favourite position for representation of this saint, a sight of him being considered an omen of good)—the brass to *Richard Bethell*, vicar of the parish 1518 — the plain, well-proportioned font with Jacobean cover, and the interesting series of monuments of the family of *Leigh* (former possessors of North Court) in the north aisle, good examples of a bad style, with singularly quaint epitaphs. The visitor should remark that of Sir John Leigh, the purchaser of North Court (1629), with kneeling effigies of the old knight, and his little nine-months-old great-grandchild Barnabas, who died a week after him, the inscription telling us that

“ Inmate in grave he took his grandchild heir,
Whose soul did haste to make to him repaire,
And so to heaven along, as little page,
With him did poast, to wait upon his age ;”

and the brass plate under the east window of the north aisle, erected by Sir J. Leigh's eldest son Barnabas (the completer of North Court), in memory of “ the most worthie and religious gentlewomen his late dear and loyall wives, Mrs. Elizabeth Bampfield, who died the viii March 1615, having bin the mother of 15 hopful children, And Mrs. Gartrude Parcevell, who died childless xxii December 1619.”

The chalice and paten are ancient and curious. The latter, a piece of French workmanship purchased by the late rector, hardly suitable for its present use, bears medallions of the twelve Cæsars, and in an inner circle those of Minerva and the liberal arts, Rhetoric, Music, Grammar, Arithmetic, and Astronomy, (as on the pulpit of Newport Church,) with the Fall of Man in the centre.

At the west end of the south aisle a blocked-up archway marks the place of the piece of ordnance (now sold) provided by Shorwell, in common with the other parishes in the island, for its defence in the reign of Edward VI.

To the north-west of the church, embowered in stately woods clothing the lower chalk slopes, stands the manor-

house of *North Court* (Sir H. P. Gordon, Bart.), a good example of the picturesque gabled mansions, of which so many were erected in the island at the revival of prosperity in the early part of the reign of James I., and the only one maintaining its ancient dignity. It was begun by Sir John Leigh, who in the reign of Elizabeth had purchased this manor, (which had formerly belonged to the Abbess of Laycock, in Wilts, to whom it had been granted in the reign of Henry III. by Amicia, Countess of Devon,) and completed by his successor Barnabas. From the Leighs it passed by the female line to the Bulls and Bennetts, and thence in right of his wife to Sir Willoughby Gordon, G.C.B., G.C.H. The grounds are extensive and beautiful, but as usual kept private. Their former possessor, Mr. Bull, decorated (?) them with a number of the ornamental buildings once so much in vogue — a dairy, a so-called “temple of the sun,” and with a strange parade of private sorrow, a mausoleum and funeral urn to the memory of his daughter.

Woolverton (Wulpheres Town), is another ancient house which deserves notice, long the principal mansion in the place, passing by marriage from the Dingleys to Sir John Leigh. The site of the old house is a moated space to the north of the present dwelling, a large gabled building of the same date as *North Court*, but bare and cheerless.

Crossing the little brook of crystal water which flows through the village street, to find its way into the sea at *Grange Chine*, we pursue our way westward, and soon pass on the left the picturesque ivied gables of *West Court* (a manor-house worth inspection, long belonging to the Lisles), and a little further *Lemerstone*, the site of a very ancient manor, (where was a chapel of the “Holy Ghost,” served by three priests,) carried into the Titchbourne family by the marriage of Sir Roger de Titchbourne with the heiress of the *Lemerstone*, Isabella, the heroine of the

Legend of the Titchbourne Dole.

It is said that when the Lady Isabella lay a-dying after a long life spent in the exercise of an almost unbounded charity, she prayed her husband to grant her as much land

as would enable her to establish a dole of bread to all comers to the gates of Titchbourne on every successive Lady Day. Sir Roger, so says the tale, took a flaming brand from the hearth, and promised his wife as much land as she could herself encircle whilst it continued burning. She caused herself to be carried from her bed to a spot still pointed out, and began creeping on her hands and knees. Before the brand was consumed, she had encircled several acres, still known by the name of "Crawles." The house, says an ancient prophecy, will fall and the family become extinct if the dole should be neglected. The "Titchbourne dole," in the shape of 1900 small loaves, was regularly distributed till the close of the last century, when the loaves were discontinued, but money to the same amount "has since been annually given to the poor."

The road now runs at the foot of the Chalk Downs, which rise majestically to our right (a small tower crowning an isolated knoll, known as "Miss Bull's Folly," is a conspicuous object in the view), and soon brings us to the very neat and pleasant village of

Brighstone (2 miles),

where the visitor will do well to halt and examine the church, and walk down to *Grange Chine* while his horses are baiting. The *New Inn* is a comfortable place of refreshment for himself, where, if he wishes to investigate the vicinity, he may pass the night not disagreeably.

Brighstone or Brixton (the old spelling is Bristeston) was a portion of the manor of Swainston (see p. 105), and has followed the fortunes of that estate to the present day. The parish contains 3251 acres; the population in 1801 was 448; in 1841, 710; and had decreased to 695 at the last census.

The *Church*, (St. Mary, Rev. E. Macall, *R.*) still in the gift of the Bishop of Winchester, was originally affiliated to that of Calbourne, and warm disputes arose between the respective rectors before its independence was established in the middle of Edward the Third's reign. The controversy reached such a height at one time, that the

parish was placed by the bishop under the jurisdiction of the rector of Gatcombe until the differences could be settled.

It consists of two nearly equal-gabled aisles, separated by a Decorated arcade, and a very narrow aisle to the north, of Norman character, rebuilt on the old foundations in 1852, when the church received a complete restoration, conducted with loving care by the present rector; to whom, during his twenty years of office as Rural Dean, much of the general improvement of the island churches is due. The chancel is Early English, with a side chapel of Perpendicular character. The windows (which are all filled with stained glass) are mostly Decorated of reticulated work, but several of them are of modern design. The tower is low, with a dwarf leaden spire. There is the same want of height and general rudeness of workmanship which characterise the island churches; but the whole of the fittings of the church display such unstinting liberality, and its arrangements are so completely in harmony with its sacred character, that the faults of the architecture are overlooked, and the general feeling is one of unqualified admiration. The stained glass in the tower window was the gift of the Bishop of Oxford, in memory of his former connection with the parish, of which he was ten years rector; the floor is paved with encaustic tiles; those within the communion rails presented by Winchester College in commemoration of Bishop Ken.

The observant visitor will notice an arched recess and bracket on the west side of a south-west pier—perhaps for an image—a Piscina of excellent workmanship at the east angle of the south aisle, marking the site of an altar before the erection of the south chancel, and the rood staircase entombed in a gigantic buttress.

The *parsonage*, a picturesque building, standing in a lovely garden, which in summer is a perfect wilderness of sweets, is hallowed ground to the churchman. It was the home of the saint-like Bishop Ken (rector of the parish from July 6, 1667, till April 12, 1669), where, “removed from the observation of all but his small confiding flock, he again exercised himself in the duties of the Christian

ministry," till recalled by Bishop Morley to Winchester. It was also one of the "delightful asylums" in which Wilberforce, after the pecuniary misfortunes which in 1831 compelled him to give up his establishment at Highwood Hill, spent the closing years of that "calm old age on which he entered with the elasticity of youth, and the simplicity of childhood," . . . "climbing with delight to the top of the chalk downs, or of an intermediate terrace, or walking long on the unfrequented shore."

Grange Chine (1 mile).

The walk from Brighstone to the sea is very pleasant, leading first across some sunny meadows, and then by the side of a little stream to *Grange* or *Jackman's Chine*, a broad trough-like ravine with rough shelving sides, shaggy with gorse and underwood, worn through the friable strata by the action of the brook, and though offering no very marked feature, well worth a visit. At its mouth a range of low, nearly uniform cliffs of a dull reddish hue, extends a considerable distance on either side, the whole belonging to the Wealden formation. (For the coast to the east, see pp. 280-1.)

To the west, towards Brook, the coast presents no particular interest. *Chilton Chine* is a shallow trough, with nothing to distinguish it from the other chines on this part of the coast, where the cliffs are generally too low to admit of any grandeur of effect. The geologist, however, will observe the bed of sandrock, which, stretching out into the sea, forms *Bull-Face Ledge*, another perilous reef. Dr. Fitton remarks, that "the cliff rises gradually to the north-west; attains its greatest height above the sea near a gap or chasm at Southmore, the central point of the Wealden, and then declines very slowly till it comes down to the shore between 900 and 1000 paces from Brook Chine." The curve thus formed is only "apparent, being due to the general rise of all the strata from the interior to the sea, combined with the curvilinear prominence of the coast."* The walk along the shore from Grange to

* Fitton, "On the Strata below the Chalk," p. 200.

Brook Chines is about 3 miles. (For the road from Brighstone across the Downs to Calbourne, see Route 76.)

The road from Brighstone to Freshwater Gate (7 miles), is somewhat monotonous, passing over the naked undulating surface of the lower greensand or Wealden slopes, which extend from the foot of the downs to the sea. At $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile it reaches

Mottistone,

a picturesque group of cottages, scattered round a quaint little church high on the hill-side, and a grey old *Manor-House*, built in 1557 by the Chekes, from whose stock sprang Sir John Cheke, immortalised by Milton as the tutor of Edward VI. The whole scene well deserves a place in the sketch-book.

The Church (SS. Peter and Paul, Rev. T. Renwick, R.) need not detain the traveller long. It is a very small building of nave, side aisles, and double-gabled chancel, separated by an arcade closely resembling that at Brighstone: but here the resemblance between the two churches ends, for that of Mottistone is singularly dirty and dilapidated, and sorely needs the hand of the restorer. There is a large late altar tomb in the chancel with an illegible inscription. The parish contains 1107 acres: its population has been nearly stationary for the last half century, being 159 in 1801, 176 in 1841, and 143 at the last census. It is a rectory united to Shorwell vicarage.

On the side of the hill above Mottistone, reached by a narrow road from the west end of the church (impracticable for carriages) stands the celebrated

Long Stone,

a huge rough quadrangular pillar of ferruginous sandstone, 13 ft. high, $6\frac{1}{2}$ wide on its broadest side, and 20 ft. in circumference; its weight is little less than 30 tons. Four feet distant is another recumbent stone, $9\frac{1}{4}$ ft. long, and 4 ft. wide. These memorials are of unknown antiquity, and are probably either ancient boundary stones, or (a supposition to which the name of the village gives weight), an ancient sacred spot, where in Saxon times the

“motes” or public meetings of the inhabitants were held. The hollow way, shaded with low venerable oaks, which leads through the valley between the chalk strata and the Lower Greensand, is remarkably picturesque, and the view is very striking, where,

“Tinted by Time, the solitary stone
On the green hill of Mote, each storm withstood,
Grows dim, with hairy lichen overgrown.”

PERL—*Fair Island.*

Half a mile east of the Long-Stone is “*Black Barrow*,” a colossal tumulus on a natural ridge. Several groups of tumuli of Celtic construction occur in the neighbourhood, as well on Mottistone as on Brook and Afton Downs, most of which have been opened and their contents rifled. The views commanded from Mottistone Down are magnificent: it is the highest elevation of the central range, rising 661 feet above the sea.

Continuing our route by the high road, we pass *Hulverstone* turnpike in the parish of Shalfleet, (a manor formerly held of the king by the service of providing a foot-soldier with bow and arrows to serve for forty days in England,) and reach

Brook (1 mile),

a parish consisting of little more than a church, manor-house, and parsonage, and a few scattered cottages, lying at the mouth of one of the principal depressions in the chalk range, between Mottistone and Shalcombe Downs. The population was only 157 at the last census, 7 more than in 1841, and 50 more than in 1801. The parish contains 713 acres.

The Church (St. Mary, Rev. J. P. Gaze, R.) stands high and lonely on a terrace of the ferruginous beds of greensand which here, as at Brighstone and Mottistone, form a second range of hills, with a valley corresponding to the position of the gault, between them and the Chalk Downs. It is a very late uninteresting building, not devoid of picturesqueness of outline, but containing nothing to detain the traveller. Towards the close of the last century, the

whole of the interior, including the ceiling, was panelled in wood, now painted white, and every vestige of antiquity destroyed.

The parish of Brook was taken out of that of Freshwater, and its church, which was founded by the Bowermans, long ranked merely as a chapel subordinate to its mother church. There was in the last century a lawsuit between the Bowermans and St. John's College, Cambridge, the patrons of Freshwater, with regard to the presentation to Brook, which was decided against the College.

The Manor-House (C. Seely, Esq.) a large plain structure surrounded with fine trees, rebuilt by Wm. Bowerman towards the close of the last century, occupies the site of that in which, in 1499, Henry VII. was entertained by Dame Joanna Bowerman, then Lady of the Manor; on which occasion he was so well satisfied with his reception, that he made his hostess a present of his drinking horn, and granted her a fat buck yearly out of his forest of Carisbrook (*i. e.* Parkhurst) for her life.

At Brook the tourist may descend to the "*Fossil Forest*" at Brook Point, and thence by the shore and cliffs to Freshwater (Route 77).

As the tourist climbs the hill towards *Shalcombe Down*, he will remark with interest the series of strata developed in the sides of the cutting. After passing the inferior range of richly coloured ferruginous sands, he will see in succession the highly inclined strata of the gault, upper greensand, and chalk marl, and then cross the ridge formed by the white chalk.

The turnpike road here strikes inland, passing between Shalcombe and Chessel Downs, and runs to Freshwater along the northern side of the chalk range. This road is bare and uninteresting, and the far preferable route, except in stormy weather when its exposed situation renders it scarcely safe, is along the crest of

Afton Down,

turning through a gate to the left immediately after crossing the chalk ridge above Brook Church.

The views from this commanding situation are among the

very finest in the island; that over the magnificent curve of Freshwater Bay, the chalk cliffs rising perpendicularly to a height of 500 or 600 feet from the sea, which rages unceasingly against their base, is especially striking. The prospect to the south-east is hardly less remarkable, comprising the whole line of coast to Rocken End, broken by the headlands of Brook and Atherfield, and indented by Compton, Brook, and Chale Bays, the view being closed by the noble promontory of St. Catherine's with its mural escarpment. To the north the eye sweeps over the rapidly narrowing western extremity of the island, and enjoys an unbroken view of the Hampshire and Dorsetshire coast, as far as St. Aldhelm's Head and the Isle of Portland.

Near the edge of the cliff, about half a mile east of Freshwater gate, a small *Monument*, recording the fate of a youth who slipped over and was dashed to pieces, Aug. 28, 1846, serves as a warning against approaching too near the edge of the precipice, especially in dry weather, when the short turf is almost inconceivably slippery.

On the ridge of the Downs are several *British tumuli*, but most, if not all, have been plundered, and their contents scattered to the winds.

A steep descent conducts the traveller to *Freshwater Gate*, (15 miles from the Sandrock Hotel, 11 from Newport,) where there are two excellent inns, where, as well as at *Beazley's Needles Hotel* (late Grove's) at Alum Bay, the tourist will find most comfortable quarters.

Route 76. Brighstone to Calbourne.

From Brighstone a road leads across a depression in the central chalk ridge, known as *Calbourne Bottom*, down *Lynch Lane* to *Westover* and *Calbourne* (3 miles.) After crossing the marshy district of *Moortown* (of interest to the botanist) the road ascends the lower greensand ridge, here very marked, some sections of which to the right exhibit sands of nearly as vivid hues as those of Alum Bay, and passing the gault, upper green sand, and chalk, attains the summit, from which a glorious view is obtained, not only of Brighstone and its picturesque vicinity to the south, but

also of the northern side of the island—Swainston and its oak copses, the gleaming waters of the Newtown estuary, the white spire of Shalfleet, the blue waters of the Solent, and the Hampshire coast beyond. Descending the hill we reach Calbourne (Route 28).

Route 77. Brook Point to Compton Bay and Freshwater Gate.

Turning to the left at the manor-house, we pass the vicarage, and thence by a road practicable for a carriage quite down to the shore, along the brink of *Brook Chine*, (a mere open watercourse sunk in the green sward, quite devoid of beauty) to the nearest point of access to the celebrated

Raft of Fossil Trees

at Brook Ledge, first noticed by Mr. Webster in 1811, so ably described by Dr. Mantell. "The most favourable season for a geological examination of this part of the coast" is "the early spring, the latter end of March, or the beginning of April, for at low water a great extent of sand is laid bare, and reefs of wealden sandrock are seen stretching far out to sea; and the high tides often sweep away the shingle from the base of the cliffs, and the lowermost visible strata are exposed: the chance of obtaining fossil bones is also greater at this season of the year than at any other." (*Mantell*). The tourist should take care to visit Brook Point at low water, which occurs at 4 P.M. at new and full moon, otherwise the fossil raft will be covered with the waves. It is described by Mr. Webster as composed almost entirely "of petrified trees, which still retain their original forms. The knotty bark and ligneous fibre are very distinct, and trunks and branches are frequently imbedded in masses of clay, now indurated and in the state of argillaceous rock." This accumulation of fossil trees is compared by Mantell to "the rafts, as they are termed, that are annually brought down from the interior of the country by the tributary streams of the great rivers of North America, and which, hurried along by those vast floods, entangle in their course the remains of animals and plants that may happen to lie in the beds of the rivers or be floating in the waters. These rafts are at

length drifted out of the course of the currents, and becoming loaded with mud, sand, and other extraneous matters, sink down and are engulfed in the bed of the delta." The fossil trees at Brook Point "appear to have been submerged when arrived at maturity and while fresh and vigorous; for the trunks before they are removed from the sandstone are invariably covered by the bark in the state of lignite. . . . They are completely mineralised by silica and pyrites, by which they have been converted into a hard black stone capable of polish."* The annular lines of growth are very distinct under the microscope, by means of which the structure is also rendered visible, proving them to be pines of the araucarian type.

At low water the platform of the ledge is an excellent collecting ground for the marine botanist and zoologist. The beautiful *Padina Pavonia* grows in luxuriance, and among other actiniæ the *Bellis* may be found abundantly, though usually requiring a hammer and chisel for its extraction.

The tourist should pass round Brook Point into

Compton Bay,

and along the smooth hard sands to Compton Chine, where he can mount to the Down above and continue his walk to Freshwater Gate. Few walks are more interesting geologically, or command more striking and varied views. The line of cliffs is the counterpart to that in Sandown Bay, but the Wealden strata are more fully developed. From Brook Point nearly to Compton Chine, at the northern extremity of the bay, the cliffs, about 30 or 40 feet high, consist of the Wealden clays, sands, and shelly limestones, abounding in masses and layers of jet-like lignite and nodules of pyrites, and are for a considerable distance in a state of great ruin, owing to the subsidence of the red and mottled clays forming an undercliff, leaving a remoter cliff behind. The inclined strata are capped to the depth of 10 or 12 feet with an horizontal alluvial covering of drifted gravel, clay or

* H. W. Bristow, "Memoirs of Geological Survey," p. 104.

loam, in which may be found numerous trunks of trees and hazel nuts in the condition of peat or bogwood. Several Chines intersect the cliffs, as *Compton Grange Chine*, *Twenty Acres Chine*, *Compton Chine*, caused as usual by the action of a stream cutting its way down to the shore. None of these have much picturesque beauty, but they offer excellent sections of the strata, besides affording access from the beach to the summit of the cliffs, and *vice versâ*. In that known as *Compton Grange Chine*, the first to the west of Brook Point, a bed of coarse sand, "based upon the red mottled clay, contains numerous hazel nuts" (called Noah's nuts by the people of the island), completely carbonised, "and the remains of beetles mixed with matted fragments of twigs and branches of trees." *

As we approach the chalk we find most interesting highly inclined sections of the Lower Greensand, Gault, and Upper Greensand, closely corresponding with those in Redcliff Bay, to the south-west of the Culvers. The Gault is very distinctly marked, occupying a valley or depression between the Upper Greensand and the elevated crest of the inferior range of the lower ferruginous beds, parallel to the Chalk Downs. The tourist can walk a few paces beyond *Compton Chine* to notice the junction of the Upper Greensand with the Chalk, but his further progress along the coast is forbidden by the waves, which perpetually wash the base of the chalk cliffs beyond. A rough track on the west side of *Compton Chine*, a somewhat picturesque and richly-coloured ravine, leads to the down above, and continues along the edge of the cliff, somewhat too near the verge in some places for weak heads, to Freshwater Gate. This is one of the finest walks in the island, and the views of the dusky red cliffs behind and the chalk cliffs of pearly whiteness in front are magnificent. In May and June the precipitous cliffs are profusely covered with the deep purple flowers of the excessively rare and charmingly fragrant Sea Stock (*Matthiola Incana*), which grows abundantly and indubitably native on their bare and even perpendicular face.

* H. W. Bristow, "Memoirs of Geological Survey," p. 104.

CHAPTER VIII.

FRESHWATER PENINSULA.

Route 78. Freshwater Gate.

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| 79. | " | " | to Main Bench, Scratchells Bay, Needles,
and Alum Bay, by Boat. |
| 80. | " | " | to Old Lighthouse and Alum Bay, by
Downs. |
| 81. | " | " | by Faringford and Middleton Green. |
| 82. | " | " | to Totlands and Colwell Bay, Sconce Fort,
and Norton. |
| 83. | " | " | to Freshwater Church, More Green, and
Norton. |

Route 78. Freshwater Gate.

Freshwater Gate, which half a century since was but seldom visited and then only by the more hardy and adventurous travellers, has now taken rank as one of the most agreeable and attractive localities in the island, and is fast becoming a place of considerable resort in the summer season.* When Hassell visited the place about 1790, he found "a cottage the only habitation; but that," he adds, "kept by a publican, affording every accommodation a traveller can wish for," so that "frequent parties of pleasure are made to it." Four years later Wyndham speaks in equally favourable terms of the "comfortable little inn, with decent accommodations, good port wine, and," what was then and is still too "uncommon in the Isle of Wight, a rational bill." Albin in like manner, in 1795, describes the only house as one "where parties may be frequently accommodated in a very comfortable manner, if not in the style of elegance and luxuriousness, where they may occasionally stop for the night."

Hotels.

Now there are two hotels of high excellence, the *Albion* (Murrow), on the beach, and *Plumbley's* (J. Lambert), higher

* While this work has been passing through the press, a coach has commenced running in connection with those from Ryde, Cowes, and Ventnor, from Newport to Freshwater.

up on the cliff, and commanding fine views ; and lodging-houses, the want of which has been long felt, are springing up around. A bridge has been erected from Norton to Yarmouth across the mouth of the estuary, giving an easy access to the Lymington steam-packets, and thus, by the Brockenhurst branch railroad, rendering the journey to Southampton and London much easier.

The population of Freshwater has doubled itself in the last fifty years, and there is so much to render the place attractive to summer visitors that there is every reason to expect that it will continue to increase in popularity and general prosperity.

The village of Freshwater lies inland ; it is merely a handful of cottages, with a comfortable inn, *the Red Lion*, scattered round the quaint old church at the head of the estuary.

Freshwater owes its name to a little stream, which, rising in close proximity to the shingle on the southern shore, runs completely across the neck of the promontory through a deep narrow valley, serving as a *gate* or opening from the village to the sea, and enters the Solent at Yarmouth. In violent gales the waves have been known to break completely over the frail barrier of shingle, and mix their salt waters with the fresh streams of the little river-head ; thus for a time completely insulating the peninsula, and rendering it in fact, what it was formerly called, the " Isle of Freshwater."

We have already noticed several of the transverse depressions by which the central ridge of Chalk Downs is divided in its course from east to west (*e. g.* those at Brading, Newport, Shorwell, &c.), and this valley only differs from them in depth, cutting down quite to the present sea level, and forming a remarkable feature in the configuration of the country from occurring in immediate proximity to downs of such stupendous height. The hollow thus formed is filled with drift of post-eocene date, from which, in the beds of gravel at the back of the Albion Hotel, elephants' teeth have been dug up. Similar beds of gravel, coloured and somewhat cemented with iron, will be observed capping the chalk cliffs on either side.

In the early part of the reign of Charles I., when the alarm of a French invasion was again rife, a proposition was laid before the king and council by the principal inhabitants of the island for widening and deepening the Yar, and fortifying the passage, so as to cut off the peninsula entirely, and render it a place of retreat to which the population might convey their women and children, with their cattle and other property, in case of a hostile descent. Though their apprehensions were deemed groundless a promise was given that money should be immediately sent for the execution of the proposed works, and a good engineer employed; but the panic passed by, and no further steps were taken in the matter.

Freshwater Bay.

The view from the shore at Freshwater Gate is very striking; "on the one hand is a long range of chalk cliffs of great altitude, with huge fragments scattered far into the sea; on the other are lower though still lofty cliffs, with several detached masses of strange forms rising boldly out of the waves; and on both sides the heavy billowy sea is beating furiously over the outlying fragments and against the bases of the cliffs, which it has worn into grim-looking black-mouthed caverns."* Of these the "Freshwater Cave" once enjoyed considerable reputation as one of the chief lions of the island; the entrance was by a rugged arch, some thirty feet across, and it penetrated a considerable distance into the cliff; the outlook from the further extremity was remarkably beautiful, from the contrast of the dark rugged vault and the brilliant blue and silver of the sea beyond. Now, however, all this must be reckoned among the things of the past; the continual action of the boisterous waves undermined its rocky bulwarks, and the larger part of the roof fell in some ten years since, and what was left of the vault has been built up to support the *fort* which has recently been erected on the summit of the cliff above, much to the detriment of its picturesque effect, to protect the bay from the landing of a hostile force. There are still many

* "Land we live in," p. 274.

Caves which may be visited along the base of the cliffs; but nearly all are inaccessible by land, except those of *Watcombe* (and these only at low water), a little cove immediately round the point on which the fort is situated, into which a steep path leads down the face of the cliff a little beyond Plumbley's Hotel.

On the eastern side of the bay two isolated masses of the Chalk Cliff, which have long survived the destruction of the more perishable strata of which they once formed a part, stand boldly up from the sea. One of these, known as the *Deer Pound* (from a somewhat improbable tradition of a deer when hard pressed by the hounds having leaped from the cliff, which had not then receded so far, to the patch of grass at its summit), is somewhat lumpish in outline; the other, or *Arched Rock*, is one of the most picturesque objects in the Isle of Wight: the same power that severed it from its parent cliff has beaten a way through the rock, which now forms a rough arch that from some points of view exhibits a singularly beautiful Gothic outline. In these fragments, as well as in the cliffs generally, the parallel inclined belts of flint may be seen marking the white chalk like black lines ruled across a sheet of white paper.

On the shore are *bathing-machines*, and a little wooden box, dignified with the title of the *Museum*, where there is for sale a good collection of the birds which haunt these steep cliffs and their eggs, as well as of the fossils of the neighbourhood. The geological collector will do well to have some conversation with the proprietor and his intelligent son.

Freshwater Gate is an excellent position for examining the coast scenery, for which the western peninsula is so remarkable, though the hotel at Alum Bay is rather more central and equally comfortable.

Route 79. Freshwater Gate to Main Bench, Scratchell's Bay, The Needles, Alum Bay, by Boat.

What we have already said is sufficient to indicate the chief attractions of this delightful locality, and it will be

readily understood that the full effect of the lofty chalk cliffs, noble downs, and rugged bays, can only be appreciated from the water, while some of the spots best worth visiting can be approached in no other way. Boats are always in readiness when the weather permits the excursion, which is one which no one ought to miss but those to whom an hour spent on the sea is under any circumstances an hour of misery. In calm weather there is nothing to alarm the most timid; when there is a little breeze, there is sea enough to excite some apprehension in the minds of those unaccustomed to the water, but the boatmen may always be relied on for prudence, and will not recommend or even permit the sail if there be any real hazard. The usual charge for the excursion to *Alum Bay* and back is 10s., to which some exception may justly be taken.

Those who are content with viewing the scenery once, will find it a pleasant change to land at *Alum Bay*, having previously ordered a carriage to meet them at the end of the Warren, and after having examined the coloured strata return by land, by *Middleton Green* and *Faringford*.

On leaving *Freshwater Gate* we round a once picturesque point now pared and scarped, and crowned with the Fort—and shoot into *Watcombe Bay* with its dark-mouthed caverns, and a grotesque pyramidal mass of chalk tunneled by the waves, at the base, rising boldly from the water. From *Watcombe Bay* the cliffs continue to increase in height and verticality until they attain their greatest elevation, 617 feet, below the beacon on *High Down*. The base is worn by the waves into caverns, “where sea-monsters might retire to sleep or Tritons come to meditate” (*Sterling*), two of the chief of which are known as *Neptune’s Cave* and *Lord Holmes’ Parlour*: the latter name being derived from that nobleman, (formerly governor of the island,) having been in the habit of entertaining his friends in its darksome recess, his wine being deposited in *Lord Holmes’ Cellar*, and the culinary operations carried on in his *Kitchen*—two smaller recesses near at hand.

The process of formation of the caverns, arches, and pinnacles with which the base of the huge white wall is so fantastically diversified, is well described by Sir H. Engle-

field. "They are evidently owing to the different hardness of the several strata, and to the fissures which run through them at nearly right angles to their direction. These fissures in the present situation of the strata are nearly horizontal. When the sea has worn away the stratum to a certain depth, the part above the excavation and below the next great fissure drops out for want of support, and is soon carried away by the waves; and thus galleries are formed in the softer strata. But even the hardest parts are not of equal solidity throughout; they also have fissures, and through them the waves gradually corrode their way, forming rude arches of varied and beautiful forms, until by degrees the outer parts become too weak to support the incumbent hill, which falls in, and the cave assumes a new face."

A little further on is the "*Wedge Rock*," a triangular fragment of chalk about 12 feet long by 6 or 8 wide, lodged between the main cliff and an isolated pyramid about 50 feet high. Passing the "*Old Pepper Rock*," a detached mass of chalk, we find ourselves beneath the "*Main Bench*," the finest part of the range, rising almost perpendicularly to a height of 600 feet. The rows of flints and layers of the same substance, (almost invariably singularly shivered) scoring the white surface of the chalk with dark parallel lines running obliquely from base to summit, are almost as regular as the lines of a copy-book. The softer parts of the chalk having been washed out, and the blocks dividing rectangularly, the base of the cliffs has the effect of being built of large masses of masonry.

The projecting ledges of these precipices swarm with sea birds — herring gulls, guillemots, and cormorants, — sitting the breeding season tier above tier, so as almost to cover the face of the cliff. If a gun be fired, its report raises such a cloud as literally to darken the air.

The Main Bench ends in a stern wave-worn bluff, called "*Sun Corner*," between which and the Needles is

Scratchell's Bay,

about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile across, the view from which is very wild and striking, and "one which you must travel many miles to match." Precipitous beetling cliffs, from 400 to 500 feet high,

divided into nearly perpendicular strata of 8 or 10 feet thick by bands of flint nodules, encircle the little bay, where the destruction of the lower beds has created a magnificent arch 200 feet high, overhanging the beach in a noble canopy of at least 180 feet span, which though insignificant from the water, offers a spectacle of wondrous beauty to those who land on the little strip of shingle beneath its shelter. Retiring as far as the cliff allows, and then turning towards the sea, the visitor finds himself beneath "a stupendous natural arch, whose edges are worn to an astonishing thinness by the action of wind and rain; a segment, as it were, of a dome, from beneath which he looks out on the ocean with all its solemn breadth, and sparkling points rolling away till it seems piled up against the sky." (*Sterling.*)

Just within the bay the waves have tunneled a low gloomy cavern which runs as much as 300 feet into the cliff, known as the *Needles Cave*.

The Needles.

From Scratchell's Bay the boatmen take the visitor through the *Needles*, the grandeur of whose wedge-shaped outlines rising out of the blue waves cannot be justly appreciated except from the sea. "These well-known pinnacles of chalk are isolated masses of the extreme west point of the middle range of Downs, which have been produced by the decomposition and wearing away of the rock in the direction of the joints or fissures with which the strata are traversed. The angular or wedge-shaped form of these rocks has resulted from the highly inclined northward dip" (about 80°) "of the beds of which they are composed."* They stretch out seaward nearly in a straight line with the promontory of which they once formed part, and which will in due time separate into similar masses, under the combined action of the winds and waves, which have gradually ruined and devoured so much of its bulk. There are 5 rocks (though only three rise boldly from the sea), of which that nearest the land became isolated between 1815 and 1820, before which it was connected with the main cliff by

* Mantell, p. 145.

an arch to be seen in earlier views. Any one who sails through the rocks and remarks the countless spires of needle-like sharpness presented by them when viewed in profile from the eastern side, will see sufficient reason for the name, which is, however, commonly traced to a tall, slender, conical pinnacle, about 120 feet high, known as *Lot's Wife* (figured in Sir R. Worsley's History of the Island), which fell in 1764—the base having been worn away by the incessant action of the boisterous waves—with a crash the shock of which was felt as far as Portsmouth Harbour. Its stump is still visible at low water between the second and third rock, and forms a dangerous reef. Just before Mr. Webster visited the Needles in 1811, the "*Pomona*," a 50-gun frigate, was wrecked on her homeward voyage from Persia on the westernmost of the rocks, where the new lighthouse rears its graceful form. "The chalk cliffs," he writes, "having pierced through the bottom of the ship, she remained immoveable, and filling with water, instantly became a complete wreck. The crew and passengers, among whom were some Persian princes, happily got safe to shore." "The vessel," he continues, "afforded one a scale by which to judge of the size of the Needles, and I was surprised to find that the hull of the frigate did not reach one fourth of their height—the foam of the waves almost constantly dashing over the ship spouted to a great height, running back again through her gun ports. I was informed on the first gale she would be dashed to pieces, which accordingly happened not many days afterwards."

The visitor may land on the outermost rock and examine the lighthouse lately erected by the Trinity Board, which first commenced to show its warning light regularly January 1, 1859. The view from the lantern is most remarkable, and well deserves attention.

On rounding the rugged headland, the view of the extraordinary scenery of

Alum Bay,

with its richly coloured vertical bands contrasting with the solid wall of chalk which forms its southern boundary, and

the fine headland of Headon Hill (397 feet from the sea), rising boldly at its northern extremity, burst upon the eye with a suddenness which leaves an impression on the mind never to be forgotten. The chalk cliff rising sheer from the sea to a height of between 300 feet and 400 feet to the green turf of the swelling down above, projects in many places beyond the base, which has been undermined by the ceaseless action of the waves, which often dash against it with no ordinary fury. The face of the cliff, as remarked by Sir H. Englefield, being "formed of a series of flat surfaces produced by the chalk having parted most easily at the courses of flint, its general tendency is not perpendicular, the strata appearing one under the other like tiles on the wall of a house." "The shadowy effect noticed in Whitecliff Bay is here seen in a still more striking manner. The range is both higher, longer, and more immediately rising from the sea, and the pearly hue of the chalk is beyond description by words, probably out of the power even of the pencil. The magical repose of this side of the bay is most wonderfully contrasted by the torn forms and vivid colouring of the clay cliffs on the opposite side; which offer a series of points of a sort of scalloped form, which are often quite sharp and spiry. Deep rugged chasms divide the strata in many places, and not a vestige of vegetation appears in any part; all is wild ruin. The tints of these cliffs are so bright and so varied that they have not the appearance of anything natural. Deep purplish-red, dusky blue, bright ochreous yellow, grey nearly approaching to white, and absolute black succeed each other as sharply defined as the stripes in silk; and after rain the sun, which from about noon till his setting, in summer, illuminates them more and more, gives a brilliancy to some of these nearly as resplendent as the high lights on real silk."

Having reached Alum Bay, the visitor will probably be inclined to land and take a nearer view of the remarkable strata, whose coloured sands, with their hues perhaps a little heightened by art, are so familiar when fancifully arranged in glasses or formed into rude pictures of the chief objects of interest in the island. The strata, when

exposed to the atmosphere soon lose their vividness, but by scraping away the outer coating singularly brilliant veins are easily met with, from which slices may be cut combining several tints in the breadth of a few inches. The mingling of colours in the *débris* at the base of the cliffs is often very curious. At low-tide the walk along the curve of the bay towards the chalk cliffs is very interesting, and affords an opportunity of examining the strata in succession. As we approach the chalk, we meet with a thin vein of pipe-clay, enshrining exquisitely delicate impressions of leaves, and small fossil fruits. Cement-stones (*Septaria*) are picked up on the beach, and the mineral from which the bay derives its name appears in a bright yellow efflorescence on the clay cliffs, but none is now derived from this source for the purposes of commerce.

Between the chalk and the clay strata there is a deep hollow or ravine, immediately beyond which one of the many small springs which trickle out from the fissures of the chalk cliffs is known as "*Mother Larges' Well*," from which the lighthouse derives its supply of water: a little further along we reach "*Mother Larges' Kitchen*," a cavern in the chalk through the walls and roof of which water is continually percolating. From this point it is possible at low-water to scramble along the rocks at the base of the nearly vertical cliffs to a projection known by the sailors as "*the Buttocks*," through which an arch has been worn by the waves. Beyond this, the cliffs rising directly from the water bar further progress except at spring-tides, when it is practicable, but by no means advisable, to make one's way entirely round the point into Scratchell's Bay.

The geological character of Alum Bay is identical with that of White Cliff Bay (see p. 174). In both we have the tertiary formations in immediate contiguity to the almost vertical strata of chalk; and though to a superficial observer there appears but little similarity between the grassy slopes of the one and the gorgeous colouring of the other, an attentive examination will prove their identity.

The pure white sands at the base of Headdon Hill are exported in large quantities for the use of the glass-houses of

London and Bristol; as much as 21,984 tons was shipped for this purpose between 1850—1855.

Route 80. Freshwater Gate to the Old Lighthouse and Alum Bay, by the Downs.

Those who are too timid to adventure themselves on the waves, or are prevented from taking the aquatic excursion by the boisterous weather which often prevails here to the disappointment of the tourist, are by no means precluded from enjoying the remarkable scenery of this wild western promontory. As is generally the case, the pedestrian has the best of it, for the walk along the ridge of the High Down from Plumbley's Hotel to the Old Lighthouse (about three miles) is one of the most delightful which can be anywhere enjoyed.

“The view across the sea is glorious, and the breezes come over the wide waters with that delightful freshness which is never felt but in wandering along the lofty hills that rise at once from the broad ocean. The Downs are open, and only employed for grazing sheep; you may therefore make your own path over them; the lighthouse is a sufficient landmark. The rambler may here perceive

‘how fearful

And dizzy 'tis to cast one's eyes below.’

Shakspeare's lines have been often applied to these cliffs, and it is almost impossible to look over them without their recurring to the memory. Almost every word is applicable here: there is something almost of fascination in looking down on the murmuring surge, which is hardly heard, and watching the countless sea-birds that in ceaseless noisy motion ‘wing the midway air.’ But the stranger should not approach the brink of the cliffs needlessly; not only is there danger ‘lest the brain turn,’ and he ‘topple down headlong,’ but the sudden gusts of wind that are almost constantly happening, together with the slippery footing and the friable nature of the chalk, render it very needful to be careful. Many instances have occurred of loss of life even among those daily used to be about the cliffs. The

‘dreadful trade’ of gathering samphire * is still practised here. Samphire grows abundantly on these cliffs, and is in common use as a pickle among the poorer classes. But the main inducement to practise the perilous craft is the profit arising from the sale of the eggs and feathers of the various sea-birds which build in amazing numbers on the ledges and in the crevices of the cliffs. In order to get at these eggs, the men fasten a rope to an iron bar which they have driven firmly into the ground, and then placing themselves on a rude seat formed of two pieces of wood placed across, they lower themselves by means of a second rope down the face of the cliff. The practice is almost as dangerous as it appears to be : “many a bold man has lost his life in pursuing it.” †

The old lighthouse occupies the summit of the Down at its western extremity, at a height of 450 feet above the sea. Serviceable as its light has proved in guiding vessels through this narrow and dangerous passage, mists so often prevail at the time when the beacon is most needed, that it has been disused since the commencement of 1859, its place being supplied by the new lighthouse already noticed on the outermost Needle Rock. “West of the lighthouse the cape shoots out almost to a point; and to those whose nerves are proof against the horrors of the position, the views into the bays beneath, and of the cliffs, which are as it were left behind, is extremely sublime. In hard blowing weather the fury of the wind on this promontory is scarce credible. Very large flints and fragments of chalk are blown from the cliffs so as to endanger the windows of the lighthouse, and for many days in succession it is scarcely possible to open the door.” (*Sir H. Englefield.*)

* “For the purposes of pickling it is annually collected in large quantities from the cliffs at Freshwater, and sent up to some wholesale houses in London by the cliffsmen, who make samphire-gathering a part of their summer occupation, and for which, when cleaned and sorted, they receive 4s. a bushel. It is put up in casks with sea-water for preservation on the journey. In smaller quantities the charge for collecting is 1s. per gallon.”—Bromfield, *Flora Vect.*, p. 213.

† “Land we Live in,” vol. i. p. 274.

This bold headland commands a very extensive and interesting prospect of the opposite coast of Hampshire and Dorsetshire. *Beaulieu* and its firs — the *New Forest* — the white front of *Pilewell House* — *Hurst Castle*, with its batteries and red lighthouses — *Christchurch*, with its huge cathedral-like church in its capacious bay — the entrance to *Poole Harbour* — *Bournemouth* — *Swanage* — the *Isle of Purbeck*, with its iron-bound coast — and *St. Aldhelm's Head* — and in clear weather the *Isle of Portland* — are all visible. To the south-east the whole coast of the island stretches away to its southern extremity at *St. Catherine's*, while immediately beneath us lie the *Needles*, dwarfed into insignificance, and the rugged outline of *Scratchell's Bay*, with its overhanging arch.

The eastern portion of the ridge is known as the *Nodes*: on its highest point, 483 feet from the sea, stands a *Beacon*, at which, as on all the elevated spots through the island, watchmen were stationed in the Middle Ages, ready to send the warning of its broad red light from height to height on the approach of an invader. During the war with Napoleon I. (1795) signal-posts were established here by Government, communicating with Spithead and Portsmouth by a chain of signals along *St. Catherine's*, *Wroxall*, *Shanklin*, and *Ashey Downs*, so that "the appearance of an enemy could be known in less than half an hour, with an account of their number, force, &c." A detachment of 50 men was at this time permanently stationed at *Freshwater*, besides 150 at *Colwell*, and as many at *Compton* and *Grange*.

From the lighthouse the visitor may descend by the north face of the Downs, a perfectly safe though steep path, to the Warren above *Alum Bay*, whence he may visit the picturesque scenery of the Bay, and return to *Beazley's Hotel* or to *Freshwater Gate*. A very rugged descent leads by the ravine between the chalk and the coloured clays to the shore at "*Mother Larges' Well*."

Route 81. Freshwater Gate to the Old Lighthouse and Alum Bay, by Faringford and Middleton Green.

The walk along the downs is so delightful that it should be omitted by none who have strength enough for it. The same points are, however, easily accessible in a carriage. Turning to the left at Freshwater Gate, and passing Easton, we soon reach on the left *Faringford*, a comfortable mansion sheltered with noble trees, the residence of Alfred Tennyson, the Poet-Laureate, thus described by himself in his invitation to the Rev. F. D. Maurice, his child's godfather:—

“Where, far from noise and smoke of town,
I watch the twilight falling brown
All round a careless order'd garden,
Close to the ridge of a noble down.

“You'll have no scandal while you dine,
But honest talk and wholesome wine,
And only hear the magpie gossip
Garrulous under a roof of pine.

“For groves of pine on either hand,
To break the blasts of winter, stand;
And further on, the hoary Channel
Tumbles a breaker on chalk and sand.”

We next reach *Middleton Green*, with its pretty cottages and orchards (a lovely sight in the spring), and turning to the left, mount the steep side of the Down, and proceed along the rapidly narrowing promontory, with the smooth turf sloping down rapidly on either hand to the cliffs below, to the lighthouse, whence after having enjoyed the view we can retrace our steps and reach Alum Bay by the road, or, which is much preferable, having sent the carriage round to meet us at the foot of the Warren, immediately above the Bay, descend the rapid green slope on foot.

Alum Bay

may be reached by the main road, without taking the détour to the lighthouse, in about 3 miles from Freshwater

Gate. A mile from the shore stands *Beazley's Needles Hotel*, an excellent house, tempting to a lengthened sojourn: the air is deliciously pure and exhilarating, and the walks in every direction are full of beauty and interest. The stroll down to the beach is a very delightful one across swelling turf alive with hundreds of rabbits, peering curiously at you from a safe distance and then scurrying away to their burrows in the light sandy soil; with the lofty ridge of the Chalk Downs to the left, and a lower ridge of the tertiary strata terminating in *Headon Hill* to the right. A little rugged green chine leads down to the beach, to the head of which there is a track across the turf practicable for carriages.

Route 82. Freshwater Gate to Totlands and Colwell Bays, Sconce Fort, and Norton.

The bold headland of Headon Hill, with its singularly ruinous strata, divides Alum Bay from that of *Totlands*, which is again separated from *Colwell Bay* by *Warden Point*. Both these bays, though not presenting the same striking features as Alum Bay, are well deserving of a visit, especially from the geological student, who may here collect a large number of the tertiary fossils with the greatest ease.

The bays may be reached by water, continuing the sail from Alum Bay, or having driven thither, the tourist may walk, choosing the ebb tide; along the sandy margin of the bays, examining the various strata and gathering their characteristic fossils, while his vehicle is sent round to meet him at the *Nelson Arms*, Colwell, a house of humble pretensions which has been recently renovated in the hope of attracting visitors to this interesting locality.

The more ordinary way of visiting the spot is to drive from Freshwater Gate, taking the road to the left after passing the parsonage, and crossing the pretty village green and turning again sharply to the left, reach the hamlet of Colwell, and by a roughish road across the common down to the very margin of the sea.

The common to the left of the lane is an admirable botanical collecting ground; and from *Warden Point*, which

divides the two bays, a noble view is commanded of the Needles, Alum Bay, Hurst Castle, and the Hampshire coast, as well as of the pleasant rural district to the east, sloping down to the rich valley of the Yar and its goodly estuary.

Below Warden Point lies the formidable *Warden Ledge*, on which, in 1827, the ill-named "Happy Return," laden with tin, was wrecked—the vessel having drifted thither from Yarmouth, where the master had touched to obtain help for a sick woman: the crew were saved, but the excellent surgeon, who, in spite of warning, had come a second time to the relief of the sufferer, was drowned.

Those whose time is limited may desire their carriage to proceed as far as it can towards the Guard-house above *Cliff End Fort*, and, after a walk along the shore, ascend the cliff and meet it. The geological student should be provided with Professor Forbes's "Memoir on the Tertiaries;" but it may be briefly stated that the cliffs consist of alternations of marine and freshwater strata belonging to the "upper, middle, and lower Headon Series," abounding in fossils, many of which may be picked out of the sandy clay in as perfect a state as if the animal had only just left them. Specimens of the various species of *Cerithium*, and the elegant bivalve *Cytheria incrassata*, or Venus shell, as well as the little spotted *Neritina concava*, may be picked up in multitudes on the shore, having been washed out of the cliff. Near *Bramble Chine*, where a road leads to the cliff above, a thick bed of *oysters* may be seen, apparently in their original state, the valves being in contact as when living, but so decomposed as to render it almost impossible to extract them whole. The strata throughout the bays are very soft, and are continually forming extensive landslips and mud torrents, which often obscure the lower parts and prevent research.

At *Cliff End*, the nearest point to Hurst Castle, a red brick battery has been recently constructed, called the "Albert Fort," mounting 40 guns of the heaviest calibre. There is also a still stronger fort, known as the "Victoria Fort," mounting 52 guns, a little further to the east, on the site of *Carey's Sconce*, or *Sharpnose Fort*, a blockhouse

erected by the energetic Sir George Carey when governor of the island, at the time that the nation was girding itself to repel the Spanish invasion. Between the two batteries which, with those of Hurst, effectually close the entrance of the Solent against an enemy, stood *Worsley's Tower*, erected by Richard Worsley when Captain of the island, about 1543, near which Charles I. embarked for Hurst, Dec. 1, 1648, whence he was removed on the 27th of the month to Windsor, preparatory to his trial and execution. Those who have time at their command may continue the walk very agreeably along the top of the cliff, commanding fine views of Yarmouth, the broad hill of Hempstead beyond, and the coast stretching out towards Gurnard Bay and West Cowes, to *Norton* (2 miles), with its villas and cottages, from which they may cross by the recently constructed bridge to Yarmouth, or meeting their carriage at that place, return by More Green to Freshwater.

Route 83. Freshwater Gate to Freshwater Church, More Green, and Norton.

The village and church of Freshwater lie about a mile to the north of Freshwater Gate, at the head of the tidal estuary of the Yar, which is navigable at high water up to this point. The village is humble enough, and contains nothing besides the church to merit attention. There is a small wayside inn, the *Red Lion*, which offers more economical accommodation than the grander establishments on the beach. The *Church* (All Saints, Rev. J. Isaacson, *R.*) is a building of some interest, of Transition-Norman date, and will repay inspection.

The western front is singularly picturesque, owing to the remarkable construction of the tower, which stands on two projecting walls united by a pointed arch, above which rises a square belfry overhanging the storey below. It would seem as if the founders of the church contemplated a tower the whole breadth of the nave, which proving too large a scheme for their successors to carry out, they adopted the singular expedient of raising two walls *within* the westernmost arches, and partly blocking them up, so as to

narrow its base, the other two walls being replaced by arches, one outside and one within the church. The roof and walls are covered with a profusion of the Wall-rue (*Asplenium Ruta Muraria*). The church is divided into a centre and side aisles by pointed arches on low cylindrical columns with square abaci. Gabled chapels flank the chancel, communicating with the aisles by low semicircular arches, which, with small windows above now opening into the aisles, appear to belong to an earlier church. The church was refitted at too early a date to secure more than general neatness and decency of arrangement; it is the only church in the island which possesses a rood screen, but it is a poor example and much modernised. The pulpit is Jacobean. There are some good memorial windows to the Crozier family. The south chapel, belonging to the Afton Manor, contains the matrices of two fine brasses; beneath one of which, Worsley tells us, a decapitated skeleton was found with the skull between its legs. In the south wall is a monumental recess, with the dog's tooth moulding and clumsy cusping. An old monumental stone with an incised cross lies at the vestry door. The quaint epitaph to "the most vertuous Mrs. Anne Toppe, sometime of the privy chamber to Queen Elizabeth and Queen Anne" (Anne of Denmark, queen of James I.) merits perusal. Freshwater Church was given by Fitz-Osborne to the Abbey of Lire, and fell to the crown on the assumption of the property of the Alien foundations, and after sundry changes was granted by James I. to Lord-Keeper Williams, afterwards Archbishop of York, by whom it was conveyed, March 24th, 1623, to its present patrons, the Master and Fellows of St. John's College, Cambridge.

The parish is very extensive, embracing not only the whole "Isle of Freshwater," but the manors of Afton, Compton, and Wilmingham to the south-east. It contains 5242 acres, including 280 of water, and its present population is upwards of 1400; in 1841 it was 1299; in 1801, 605 — having more than doubled itself in the last half century.

Freshwater was the birthplace (July 18th, 1635) of the celebrated natural philosopher Dr. Robert Hooke, whose

father was rector of the parish. The gossiping Aubrey gives an amusing sketch of his youthful days, and the energy with which he struggled against the disadvantages consequent on the early death of his father. Having been educated at Westminster and Christ Church, he became (1662) "Curator of Experiments to the Royal Society," Professor of Geometry at Gresham College (1664), and Secretary to the Royal Society (1667).

Dr. Wood, Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, and Dean of Ely, the well-known mathematical writer, died rector of Freshwater in 1839.

From Freshwater Church a very pleasant inland road leads along coppice-fringed lanes to the hamlet of *More Green*, and to the pretty village of *Norton*, 2 miles, pleasingly diversified with broken ground and groups of trees, and adorned with the villas of *Norton Lodge* (Sir Graham E. Hamond, Bart.), *Hill Lodge* (Captain Hamond), and the *Marina* (Captain Crozier).

From Norton the visitor may cross the new bridge to Yarmouth, and continue his journey to Newport or Cowes (Routes 7, 29, 30).

CHAPTER IX.

YARMOUTH.

Route 84. Yarmouth.

Route 85. Excursions.

Position — Decline of Prosperity — Advantages — Railway to Lymington — Hotels — Steam-Boats — Appearance from Water — Conveyances — History : Foundation, Charters, Visits of King John, repeated Destruction by French, erection of Castle, return of Prosperity, erection of Church — Parliamentary Representation — Corporation : decayed State, recent Improvements — Church : Period of Erection, Description, Monument of Sir R. Holmes, Events of his Life — Castle — Royal Arms — Other Public Buildings : Town Halls, Schools, Post Office.

Route 84. Yarmouth.

THE neat little corporate town of Yarmouth stands on a small neck of alluvial ground at the mouth of the estuary of the western Yar. Surrounded on three sides by water, its dimensions are circumscribed, nor is it probable that it was ever much *larger*, though certainly once a place of more importance than it is at present. There is a tradition that it once possessed three churches, and this is set out as a fact in the brief published for the erection of the present one ; but it is not probable that the three existed together — one to the west of the town, where the castle now stands, having been erected after the destruction of that to the east, by the French in 1377 ; and when that again had fallen before the invaders in the reign of Henry VIII., the present edifice was erected in the time of James I. There is a small *Castle*, built, like the other defences of the coast, by Henry VIII. from the spoils of the religious houses, — a *Town-hall*, *Market-place*, — a *quay*, and *steamboat-pier* ; and the town still enjoys the dignity of a municipal corporation, consisting of a mayor and eleven chief burghesses. There is some little trade with the mainland, said to be on the increase, for which its proximity to Lymington, and the rapid steamboat communication established in 1830,

afford considerable facilities. But after all that can be said of it, Yarmouth is a very diminutive place, and its aspect will not strike the visitor as indicating much prosperity or commercial activity. There is an old-fashioned, drowsy air over the little town, as if it had gone to sleep in the days when Governor Sir Robert Holmes (whose fine marble statue is the single object of real interest that the town can show), entertained Charles II., and had only recently woke up again to find itself despoiled of its parliamentary honours, feeling somewhat uncomfortable in the stir and bustle of the nineteenth century. However, the recent completion of the branch railway to Lymington, and the construction of the bridge across the mouth of the estuary, may give an additional impulse to its prosperity, and we may yet see Yarmouth taking a place once more among the leading towns of the island.

Visitors to whom quiet, a singularly pure air, and an entire absence of all the usual glare and bustle of a watering-place, are attractions, will find Yarmouth a very agreeable residence for a few weeks in the summer. It is said that those who come will generally wish to repeat their visit, and that if there were a better supply of lodgings the number of summer residents would probably be considerably increased. It is certainly a very convenient centre for exploring the whole of the scenery of the western peninsula.

Hotels.

The *George*, formerly the mansion of Sir Robert Holmes, in which Charles II. and his royal companions were entertained in 1671, is a very good house. The *Bugle* is an establishment of humbler pretensions; but containing a valuable collection of the birds of the neighbourhood, shot and preserved by the host, Mr. Butler, an accomplished ornithologist.

The *steamboats* afford communication with the mainland several times a day, and two or three times a week they run along the coast of the island to Cowes, Ryde, and Portsmouth, and in summer make excursions to Alum and

Scratchell's Bay and the Needles. There is a good supply of safe *rowing and sailing boats*, and the watermen are reputed to be not only skilful but moderate in their charges.

The appearance of the town from the water, with its grey castle, though of the very plainest,—slender church tower—high roofed, red-brick inn,—rising above the low, antique-looking houses, is picturesque, and the opposite shore, where the villas of *Norton* peep out among the trees which fringe it, is very pretty. At high water the *estuary of the Yar* is a fine sheet of water, and affords opportunity for a pleasant sail up to Freshwater Bridge, from which the scenery of Freshwater Gate may be visited; but at ebb tide it is an unsightly expanse of mud, offending more senses than one.

A coach has lately commenced running between Newport and Yarmouth, in connection with those from Ventnor, Ryde and Cowes; and *vans* run once or twice a week, for the convenience of the market folks.

History.

Yarmouth was formerly known as Eremuth—a name derived by the gossiping Sir J. Oglander, who was not an etymologist, from “Eremua, daughter of Hergustus, king of the island, a noble lady, who erected it at her own expense, peopled it, lived there, and was buried there.”

Eremua and her royal father are apocryphal personages, and the earliest authentic appearance of Yarmouth—which, we need hardly say, takes its name from its position at the mouth of the Ere or Yar—is in the 13th century, when it received a charter of incorporation from Baldwin de Redvers, Earl of Devon, and Lord of the Island. Its privileges were repeatedly confirmed to it by the English monarchs, and its governing charter was given by James I. A.D. 1609.

John Lackland was on two occasions a visitor at Yarmouth when on his way to France: on the first occasion he remained here from Sunday, May 28, to June 1, 1206, while his fleet, with which he was hoping to recover his lost duchies, was collecting at Portsmouth. On the last-

named day he set sail for La Rochelle, not appearing in England again till December 6; a period marked by some splendid successes, rendered valueless by his purposeless and lethargic disposition. The second time, (Feb. 3-4, 7-9, 1214) he was again on his way to Poitou, previously to his defeat at Bouvines.

During the French occupation of the island, in the first year of the reign of Richard II., A.D. 1277, Yarmouth was "wholly burnt and made desolate," and two of the three churches, somewhat questionably assigned to it by tradition, and the body of the third, "utterly razed and defaced." We have no evidence of its condition during the next two centuries and a half; but whatever little return of prosperity it may have enjoyed, must have been stamped out by the second attack of the French, A.D. 1524, when the town was again burnt and laid waste. A few years subsequent to this inroad, Yarmouth received the protection of a castle or *Blockhouse*, one of the series erected by Henry VIII. in 1537-9, for the protection of the south coast, and it has never again had its peace disturbed by a foreign foe.

At the commencement of the reign of James I. the prosperity of Yarmouth was increasing. The brief for the erection of the church sets forth that "the opportunities of the place (by reason of the convenience of harbour and one castle there, together with our incorporating the same, and granting liberties thereunto), hath induced many to resort unto, build and dwell in the said towne;" but it made no considerable advance, and before very long came to a standstill, and remained for many years in a state of complete stagnation under the old Tory rule, which had established complete dominion there.

Parliamentary Representation.

Members were sent to parliament in the time of Edward I., but the privilege was suspended until the 27th of Elizabeth. Since that time till the passing of the Reform Bill it regularly returned two members. The only name of dis-

tion on the roll of representatives is Philip, Lord Lisle, afterwards Earl of Leicester, the gallant brother of Algernon Sidney, who sat for this borough in the Long Parliament. The right of returning the members, though nominally belonging to the chief burgesses, was exercised by the governor* until, as at Newport, the Holmes family availed themselves of their local influence to secure the patronage of the borough, and it remained in their hands till its disenfranchisement in 1832.

As at Newport and Newtown, previous to the Reform Bill, the corporation only existed as a convenient instrument for retaining the political patronage of the borough, and had been reduced to the narrowest limits to avoid the probability of opposition. The chief burgesses, who were nearly all unconnected with the place, were chosen from

* A curious letter from Sir George Carey, then Lord Hunsdon, dated Sept. 10th, 1601, to the burgesses of Yarmouth, is printed by Albin, p. 354, desiring that they should "assemble themselves together, and with their united consent send up unto him (as they heretofore had done) their Writt, with a Blank wherein he might insert the names of such persons as he shall think fittest to discharge that Dewtie for their Behoofe." From Lord Hunsdon's engaging that the persons elected shall "free" the burgesses "of whatsoever shall be Dewe" by them for the place, it would appear that the custom of constituents paying their members had not yet entirely ceased.

During the governorship of Lord Cutts, 1692-1706, the burgesses of Yarmouth and Ventnor made an ineffectual attempt to assert their independence, to the high indignation of the imperious old General, who, as is set forth in a petition of the inhabitants, endeavoured to overawe the electors by "quartering souldiers arbitrarily," threatening those who refused to serve his interest that he would "use his power over them as enemies to the Government," and "other arbitrary and illegal acts," even going so far as to imprison a clergyman for two months for voting against his interest (see p. 26). A compact seems finally to have been come to between Lord Cutts and the Worsleys and other leading inhabitants of the island, stipulating for "a sincere and lasting friendship," and the cessation of "all Quarrels, Lawsuits, and Animositys," and engaging "that the Governor's recommendation, when any persons stand for Parliamentmen, should be preferred for any others not being of the Island."

private friendship or family connection with the patron, and the greatest number of electors that had polled for thirty years before its disenfranchisement was *nine*. At that time a considerable coal merchant was the only resident burgess.

The income of the corporation is returned by the commissioners [Report on Municipal Corporations, 1835] at about 30%, arising from wharfage dues, market tolls — a butcher being the sole occupant of the market-house — fair dues averaging 2s. 6d., and the rent of the Oyster Fishery, leased at 10%.

The account of the town given in the same report is by no means cheerful. "Little or no alteration has taken place here for many years: there is scarcely any trade, and very little importation or exportation. A small quantity of corn is exported, and coal and iron is imported from Wales for the use of the neighbourhood. Within the last year or two a few visitors have come to reside in the summer."

Considerable improvement has taken place since that date; new houses have been erected, the quay has been enlarged to nearly double its former size, to accommodate the increased trade; the steam communication with Lymington, Cowes, Ryde, and Portsmouth has been much increased; the harbour has been defended by a breakwater; a bridge has been built across the estuary; and a general air of neatness and respectability about the place indicates that, though not a place of any considerable trade, Yarmouth is thriving.*

Church.

Worsley and other historians erroneously assert that the present church was built after the devastation of the town by the French in the reign of Henry VIII. A satisfactory proof of its real date is afforded by a brief dated Sept. 1611,

• The traffic is great in coals, slate, corn, and cattle (of which no less than 11,368 head of all kinds, except pigs, were imported from Lymington, and 447 head exported during the last year). A large number of ewes are annually brought over in the autumn to lamb in the island.

which sets forth that from the period of the destruction by the French in 1377, "there remained only the ruined chancell of one of the churches which the inhabitants of the town maintained for the exercise of divine service and administration of the sacraments," which in consequence of the increase of population proving "not of sufficient greatness and capacity to containe the inhabitants who resorted thither to Divine service," and the town being unequal to the erection from its own resources of a "fit and decent church," the "charitable devotion and liberal contribution" of the king's loving subjects throughout the realm is requested, "towards the new building and reedifying of the said church of Yarmouth."

Fortified with the proceeds of this brief, the inhabitants erected the existing building, which was consecrated in 1614 by Davenant, Bishop of Salisbury.* The date of the church gives it an interest it would not otherwise possess. Its external appearance is mean, but within the effect is singularly pleasing, which is enhanced by the evident care bestowed upon it, and the neatness and order which prevails. It consists of a nave and north and south aisles, separated by well-proportioned pointed arches springing from octagonal piers; a small chancel, with north and south chapels. There is a square tower at the west end, which has recently received an addition to its height, with but small increase to its beauty.

The south chapel contains a monument to Sir Robert Holmes (Governor of the Isle of Wight, 1667—1692), which is of considerable interest as a work of art. Beneath an arched canopy resting on heavy Ionic columns of porphyry, stands a white-marble statue — life size — of the truculent old sailor, clad in complete armour. Whatever may be the truth as regards the original destination of the body of the statue, the head is evidently a portrait, and few can

* The inhabitants of Lymington subscribed 32*s.* 8*d.* towards the church in 1613. The first person buried in the church was Mr. Marvin Burley, son of Captain Burley, author of the attempted rising at Newport in favour of Charles I. (See p. 50).

look upon it without feeling a conviction that the man it represents was a fitting agent for the cruel and unscrupulous policy of his royal master, and experiencing some compassion for the unfortunates whom the chances of war threw into his hands. The workmanship of the statue is most exquisite, and it deserves greater attention than has hitherto been paid to it.*

A long Latin epitaph records the chief exploits of Sir Robert, some of which were of a sufficiently unprincipled character, though securing him the favour of his sovereign, from whom he received as a reward, first the command of Sandown Castle, and then the governorship of the island.

Holmes was an Irish soldier of fortune, born at Mallow, county Cork, who, after having served with some distinction under the standard of Charles I. and Prince Rupert, entered the service of foreign powers, and gained celebrity in France, Germany, and Flanders. Returning to England on the Restoration, he became a naval commander, and enjoyed an evil repute as "the cursed beginner of the two Dutch wars." In 1662, when hostilities were just commencing, he was sent with a fleet to protect the persons and property of His Majesty's subjects from the Dutch. In 1664, before any declaration of war had been made, he was secretly despatched to the coast of Guinea by the Duke of York, who was the head of a company for the purchase of gold-dust and slaves for the West Indies, and drove the Dutch from their colony at Cape Corse, and seized on their settlements at Cape Verde and Goree, whence he sailed to America, and captured the Dutch province of Nova Belgia, since so well known as New York, naming it after his royal patron. The Dutch complained of this infraction of the law of nations, and the king, unwilling to avow what

* A singular tale is told, that Holmes captured an enemy's ship, on board which he found the body of this statue, together with its sculptor, who was taking it to France to add the head of the French king, after modelling it from the life. Holmes it is said took possession of both the artist and his work, and compelled the sculptor to receive him as a sitter instead of the *Grand Monarque*, and finish the statue with his strongly marked Irish features.

he could not well justify, asserted his ignorance of the admiral's proceedings, and committed him to the Tower.

Holmes was speedily released, and knighted in 1666, in which year we find him engaged in the destructive and wanton expedition to the roads of Vlie, (where he burnt no less than 140 merchantmen, 2 ships of war, and many villages along the coast,) so terribly avenged by De Ruyter, when in the following year he blocked up the entrance of the Thames and Medway, destroyed Sheerness, and burnt many of our finest ships, threatening the metropolis itself.

His last exploit was still more disgraceful, amounting to nothing less than sheer piracy, though with the sanction and authority of his sovereign. In 1672, when the Dutch were relying on him as a mediator and friend, Charles II., who had just before suddenly shut up the Exchequer, despatched Holmes to capture the homeward-bound Smyrna fleet of Dutch merchantmen, whose freight was supposed to be worth a million and a half sterling. Immediately on falling in with this rich fleet he attacked it, but he found it so well prepared that after two days' hard fighting he was beaten off, and the shame of an act which success could not redeem was aggravated by failure.

The year previous to this disgraceful piratical attempt, July 1671, Holmes had enjoyed the honour, such as it was, of entertaining his royal master, accompanied by the Duke of York and Prince Rupert — who had landed at Gurnard Bay, and for whose convenience he had caused a road to be constructed through Parkhurst Forest—at his recently erected mansion. Charles paid him a second visit in 1675.

Sir Robert Holmes' governorship outlasted the reigns both of Charles and his successor, and in spite of the injuries he had inflicted on the Dutch, he was not removed from his post by William III. He died in his office in 1692, having secured an influence in the island for his family which it maintained until the changes produced by the Reform Bill in 1832.

The other *notabilia* of Yarmouth will not detain the visitor long.

The Castle

is a heavy bit of grey-stone walling, without a single element of the picturesque. It was never very formidable, being a mere half-moon battery, mounting 12 pieces of ordnance. It was erected on the site of the Church demolished by the French in Henry the Eighth's reign, and includes a portion of its wall. Till very recently, in common with the other castles of the island, it had a governor; an office, in Wyndham's words, "affording a comfortable sinecure to the person who may be fortunate enough to be appointed its captain." The last governor was Major-General Sir J. Waters, K.C.B. It is now garrisoned by small detachments of troops, and mounts eight guns.

The only object of interest in or about the castle is an escutcheon of the arms of Henry VIII. with supporters over a gateway formerly leading into its courtyard; and this is only remarkable as being one of the few royal shields which escaped mutilation from the axes and hammers of the republicans in the days of the Commonwealth.

The Town Hall

and market-house is a plain brick building, calling for no notice. There is a sufficient supply of meat, butter, vegetables, &c.

The Schools,

for which the parish is indebted to the energy of the present incumbent, the Rev. J. Blackburn, M.A., Honorary Canon of York, were erected in 1855, and will reward inspection. They are an admirable example of what a parochial school should be.

Post Office.

The mails reach Yarmouth by mail-cart *viâ* Cowes, and are usually delivered between 6 and 7 A.M., leaving at 6.45 P.M. The town enjoys the convenience of a Money-Order Office.

Route 85. Excursions from Yarmouth.

The vicinity of Yarmouth affords opportunity for many pleasant excursions, though none beyond those which have been already noticed and described.

Crossing the New Bridge to the pretty hamlet of *Norton*, the whole of the peninsula of Freshwater is at your command, and a very interesting walk may be taken along the cliff to *Sconce* and *Cliff End Forts*, and so to *Colwell*, *Totlands*, and *Alum Bays* (Route 82). The same points may be reached by pleasant footpaths and bowery lanes from Norton.

At high tide an excursion by water may be agreeably made up the estuary to Freshwater Bridge and Church (Route 83).

In an easterly direction Hempstead Hill (Route 30) is within reach of an easy walk, and while its chief interest is for the geologist, its ruined cliffs are sufficiently picturesque to reward the unscientific tourist who may be induced to visit it.

CHAPTER X.

VOYAGE FROM RYDE ROUND THE ISLAND.

ONE of the most favourite excursions taken by visitors to the Isle of Wight is the "Voyage round the Island," which, if the weather be propitious, and the tourist proof against the horrors of sea-sickness, cannot fail to be the source of much enjoyment.

During the summer months steamers go round the island once or twice every week, calling at the chief places of resort along the coast; and at all times sailing vessels may be hired to make the circuit. The steamboats perform the voyage in about five or six hours; the time occupied by a sailing vessel will of course depend upon the state of the wind and tide.

Leaving *Ryde*, which is the more usual starting-point, and directing our course to the south-east, we coast along the northern shore of the island, which is almost everywhere clothed with vegetation to the water's edge; passing the castellated residence of *St. Clare*, and rounding *Nettlestone Point*, we see the little growing town of *Sea View*, with its neat lodging-houses and small church; we now enter into

Priory Bay, and on the summit of the low cliff clad with dense foliage, catch a glimpse of the *Priory*, a square modern house ill answering to its name. Doubling *Watch-house Point* we notice the old tower of *St. Helen's* to the right of the entrance of *Brading Haven*, at the upper end of which the old town of *Brading*, with its grey spire, may be seen nestling among the fine elms of *Nunwell*, at the foot of the central chalk ridge, which here terminates in a bold rounded mass. To the left of the Haven the white spire of *Bembridge* rises amid cheerful villas and cottages. Rounding *Bembridge Foreland*, and standing out to sea to avoid the formidable Bembridge reef, we pass *White Cliff Bay*, with its interesting alternation of horizontal and vertical strata, and soon obtain a view of the magnificent chalk cliffs of the *Culvers*, with the inclination of the strata finely marked by the black lines of flint scoring their surface. We now enter on the noble sweep of *Sandown Bay*, bounded by cliffs of varied colour and broken outline, on whose shores stand the fort and rapidly increasing town of the same name. At the further extremity of the bay the detached group of Chalk Downs which guard the southern point of the island, thrusts itself into the sea in the huge promontory of *Dun-nose*, its dusky cliffs gashed by the Chines of *Shanklin* and *Luccombe*. Of *Shanklin Chine*, with the houses clustering at different levels around it, we have an interesting view; the bowl-shaped recess of *Luccombe*, with the fishers' huts at its base and the broad semicircular valley above, are also well seen. We now enter upon the most picturesque portion of the island, the view of which from the water is one of singular beauty. The wild confusion of the *Eastend Landslip*, surmounted by the lofty heights of *Shanklin* and *St. Boniface Downs*, is succeeded by the lovely villas of *Bonchurch*, peeping out on their rocky shelves from the leafy screen which half conceals them. Beyond *Bonchurch Cove* we have chalk cliffs once more, which have sunk from the down-side high above. They are succeeded by the cheerful town of *Ventnor*, with its terraces and esplanade, beyond which we have a striking view of the inland cliff capped with the swelling Chalk Down, and the verdant ruin

lying at its feet. The ledges of the harder strata projecting in parallel lines like masonry from the face of the cliff, may be well seen if the steamer keeps at all near the shore. The whole range of sea cliff from Bonchurch to the southern point of the island at *Rockenend* is composed of masses of chalk, marl, and sandstone hurled from the summit of the Downs behind, and occupying a position several hundred feet lower than their original beds. Nothing can be much wilder than the torn and twisted strata, inclined at every angle to the horizon, which are presented as we pass along the sea face of the Undercliff. In one of the most charming nooks along the coast we notice the Gothic towers of *Steephill Castle*, and the little cove with its waterfall below; beyond is the romantic range of cliffs called *Western Lines*. We then skirt in succession *Orchard Bay*, with its coast-guard station — *Ladies' Bay* — Lord Yarborough's mimic fort, and his cottage in the background — the bold projection of *Woody Point*, and *Woody Bay*, above which the little church of *St. Lawrence* may be just discerned, and the steep road leading through a gap in the cliffs to *Whitwell*.

In *Binnel Bay* the cliffs rapidly decrease in altitude, and the Undercliff sinks into a rugged green slope reaching quite to the water's edge, dotted along which, half hidden by trees, stand the villas of *Old Park*, *Mirables*, the *Orchard*, and *Puckaster*, above the little Cove of the same name, with its rude fishermen's huts. On the other side of Puckaster we notice the *Victoria Hotel* standing on its fine sandy beach in *Reeth Bay*, and the *Sandrock Hotel* on a ledge high above, and the various villas and cottages around, forming the southern part of the village of *Niton*.

From the low sea cliff rises the slender white tower of *St. Catherine's Lighthouse*, while on the summit of the Down which towers up on high, presenting a precipitous escarpment of sandstone and chalk to the sea, the ruins of the old tower and of the more modern lighthouse stand out sharp against the sky.

We have now rounded the southern point of the island, and the change of the exposure is immediately perceived in the bleak and naked aspect which succeeds to the rich luxu-

riance of foliage which clothes the Undercliff. Running past the formidable *Rockenend Race*, off the point of the same name, where immense rock fragments are piled upon the shore, we soon come in sight of the gloomy chasm of *Blackgang*, and the remarkable bastions of rock on either side of the Chine.

Hence to *Compton Bay* the coast becomes somewhat dreary and monotonous, consisting of dusky cliffs of various hues of brown, yellow, and red, with ochreous stains spreading over their face, which, however interesting to the geologist, have not much beauty of outline or colour to recommend them to the unscientific visitor. Between *Blackgang* and *Atherfield Point*, with its little group of coast-guardsmen's huts, the minor Chineses of *Walpen*, *Ladder*, and *Whale* appear as notches on the dusky wall, and on the other side of the Point we have a view of *Cowleaze* and *Shepherd's Chines*.

Near *Atherfield* the undulating outline of the more distant horizon denotes the reappearance of the central chalk range, which we lost sight of between *Sandown* and *Shanklin*, now seen stretching in a south-west direction towards the southern shore. As we continue our sail we catch very pleasing views of the villages of *Brighstone*, *Mottistone*, and *Brook*, with their venerable churches gleaming out from the midst of the surrounding groves, forming a lovely contrast to the barrenness all round.

The steamer usually stands across *Brook Bay* to *Freshwater Gate*, before reaching which the chalk reappears in immediate contact with the dark strata of the sandstone and gault in *Compton Bay*. Here almost the whole southern face of the *Freshwater Cliffs* is visible at one view, and the picturesque pinnacles of the *Needles* are seen at the extreme point of the promontory.

No part of the voyage is more interesting than that beneath these magnificent cliffs, especially if the steamer is enabled to approach sufficiently near to show the dark mouths of the "sea-framing caves" worn at their base, and the other more remarkable points of the range. As we advance the *Mainbench* stands forth in all its sublimity; we

round *Sun Corner*, and if the weather permits land at *Scratchell's Bay* and examine the remarkable arch scooped out of the chalk cliffs. Rounding the Needles Point we enjoy the almost magical effect of the suddenly presented contrast between the white wall and fantastic pinnacles of chalk and the richly-coloured stripes of *Alum Bay*—a scene probably without a parallel in the world. We sail round *Headon Hill*, and shooting across *Totlands* and *Colwell Bays*, we notice the new red brick forts at *Cliff End* and *Sconce*, and the corresponding batteries on the Hampshire coast at *Hurst*, with the earnest wish that their guns may never be called to open their brazen mouths for any other purpose than to fire peaceful salutes to our gracious sovereign and her royal visitors as they pass the narrow strait.

The estuary of the *Yar*, with the picturesque old town of *Yarmouth*, and the inviting villas and cottages of *Norton* flanking its mouth, is the next object that attracts our attention; then follows *Hempstead Hill* with its terraced sea-face—the broad mouth of the *Newtown River*—and the wooded sweep of *Thorness* and *Gurnard Bay*, immediately beyond which the houses of *West Cowes* succeed, stretching along the shore and the base of the umbrageous hill, crowned by the ugly mausoleum tower of the church.

Passing the busy harbour of *Cowes*, crowded with deep-laden merchantmen and trim yachts, and looking up the *Medina* towards *Newport* and *Carisbrooke* and the lofty barrier of *Downs*, we round *Old Castle Point*, and admire the ivy-clad towers of *Norris Castle*, a really successful modern antique. Immediately beyond, Her Majesty's marine residence, *Osborne*, with its fine Palladian front, lofty towers, terraced gardens, and rich plantations comes into view. We pass the wooded inlets of *King's Quay* and the *Wootton River*, and catch a glimpse of the tower of *Fern Hill* rising above the trees in the distance, and of the little village of *Fishbourne* among its low oaks at the mouth of the creek. The oak-clad slopes of *Quarr* and *Binstead* succeed, and we soon find ourselves again, after a most delightful voyage of about 60 miles, gazing upon

the tasteful villas and steeply rising streets of the busy town of *Ryde*.

A few hours suffice to conduct the tourist round the island in a steamer; but to enjoy the sail in perfection, he should have a boat at his own disposal for three or four days, landing at the various points of interest along the coast and sleeping on shore every night. The trip may be readily prolonged or curtailed according to weather and inclination, but a few days can be hardly spent in a more delightful manner by the lover of aquatic excursions.

PART III.

GENERAL SYNOPSIS OF THE PRINCIPAL
TOPICS RELATING TO THE ISLE OF
WIGHT.CHAPTER I.
TOPOGRAPHY.

Opinions of Drayton, Sir W. Scott, Sir W. Jardine—Fault of excessive Praise—Most Attractive Localities—Situation, &c : Former Union with the Mainland—Supposed Centre of Tin Trade—Geographical Position, Shape—Physical Features: the Downs, Central Range, Southern Range, Southern Vales and Slopes, The Undercliff, The North-east and North-west Slopes—Woodland—The Watersheds: (1) Basin of Yar; (2) North-east Basin; (3) Valley of the Medina; (4) North-west Basin; (5) South-west Basin—Climate—Health—Tides—Table of Elevations.

THE old topographical poet Michael Drayton says of the Isle of Wight—

“Of all the southern isles she holds the highest place,
And evermore hath been the great'st in Britain's grace.”

Nor is his commendation at all too unqualified, for there is certainly no other of the islets that fringe the English coast that can in any way vie with it for beauty and variety of scenery and salubrity of climate.

It has been often said in praise of Great Britain, that within its limited area it offers on a small scale examples of every form of picturesque scenery to be found in Europe. In like manner we may say of the Isle of Wight, that it is “the miniature abstract of all that is grand and lovely in England;” and though the panegyrics that have been lavished upon it are sometimes excessive, and a degree of disappointment is experienced by those accustomed to the wilder and less visited parts of England, who will

often consider the scenery of the island tame, and spoilt by the multitudes of tourists who throng its most attractive localities, few with any eye or feeling for the beauties of nature ever visited it without delight or left it without regret, and with a general acquiescence in Sir Walter Scott's description of it as "that beautiful island which he who has once seen never forgets, through whatever part of the wide world his future path may carry him."*

The most striking and characteristic scenery is on the coast, especially towards the southern extremity or "back of the island," and at the western and eastern headlands. The interior, though by no means destitute of beauty, is of a more commonplace character, and those whose time is limited may contentedly hasten over the ground, and devote their principal attention to these parts, which, though much injured by the course of trimming and smoothing to which they have been subjected, the increase of building, and the crowds of "lionizers" who beset them, must ever remain the most remarkable and beautiful spots in the island.

The tourist with leisure at his command, who has the courage to desert the beaten tracks and diverge into the less frequented districts, will discover many a lovely nook in the interior "unencroached upon as yet by gentility, and unprofaned by Vandalic ornament," and prove the truth of Sir W. Jardine's assertion, that "the *whole* island is most seductive."†

The scenery of the island necessarily depends upon its geological character and configuration, as well as on the aspect of its shores; and inasmuch as each of its four sides faces a different quarter, and few districts of equal area display such varied strata, the general appearance of the country is marked by the greatest variety: a few miles conducting you from the undulating woodlands of the north-east to the lofty Chalk Downs in the centre of the island, with their splendid prospects of sea and land, and then through the deep wooded lanes and across the

* Surgeon's Daughter, ch. vi.

† Life of Strickland, xxiii.

rich corn fields of the south-eastern basin to the chasms and dells, the slopes and precipices of the Undercliff.

Situation, &c.

A glance at the Map of England will suggest the idea that the Isle of Wight was once united to the mainland, which is completely confirmed by geological investigation. The strata on both sides of the dividing channel are identical, and the correspondence between the formations in the south-west portion of the island and those on the opposite coast of Dorsetshire is so remarkable, that there can be no doubt that at some very remote period they were continuous, the Needle Rocks remaining as visible and unimpeachable witnesses of the connection.

Those who identify the island with "Ictis," the Cornish tin mart, mentioned by Diodorus Siculus, bring down the union to historical times, and suppose that it was possible for carts to cross the Solent at low water no long time before the Christian era. The spot marked out for this mythical ford is between the village of Leap, on the Hampshire coast, and Rew Street in Gurnard Bay: but although those who are aware of the astonishing mutations worked in other parts of the coast by the gradual action of the sea, would be slow to say that such a tale is entirely destitute of foundation, it is more than probable that the severance took place at a much earlier epoch, and is due to some far more sudden and powerful agent.

The position of the Isle of Wight is very central as regards the southern coast of England, lying a little to the east of the central meridian between $1^{\circ} 4'$ and $1^{\circ} 36'$ west longitude, and $50^{\circ} 34'$ and $50^{\circ} 47'$ north latitude. It is partially embayed, and is divided from the opposite coast by a channel varying in breadth from less than one to more than six miles, known from the days of Bede as the *Solent Sea*, "*pelagus solvens*," "*the disuniting sea*" — a precarious etymology.

The tide rushes with great force through the strait, and Bede tells how the two tides from the boundless Northern Ocean daily meet and oppose one another, and after a

struggle return whence they came.* In later days Drayton speaks of

“ Those rough ireful tides as in her streights they meet,
With boisterous shocks and roars each other rudely greet,
Which fiercely when they charge and sadly make retreat,
Upon the bulwark forts of Hurst and Calshot beat.”

The island is of an irregular rhomboidal or lozenge form, (commonly compared to a bird with expanded wings, or a turbot); “due partly to the unequal action of the sea on its coast-line, and partly to those disturbances which have thrown some of its component strata into those remarkable positions which form the scenery of Scratchell’s, Alum, and Whitecliff Bays.” Its greatest length from the Foreland Farm on the Bembridge Peninsula, at the east, to the Needle Point at the west, is 22 miles 5 furlongs: its breadth from West Cowes at the north, to St. Catherine’s Point to the south, $13\frac{3}{4}$ miles. Its form is remarkably regular; its longer diameter runs nearly due east and west; the extremities of the shorter diameter are, according to Sir H. Englefield, “absolutely under the same meridian.” The circuit of the island is computed at 56 miles, though the sail round it is reckoned at 63. It covers an area, including the inlets of Brading, Newtown, &c., of 98,320 acres. Its present population is estimated at not less than 55,500.

The Downs.

The most marked physical feature of the island is the long range of high and bare chalk downs, extending in an irregular course from east to west, from the Culver Cliff to the Needles. This range, though on the whole continuous, is broken by numerous gaps or depressions, of which the most remarkable are the valley of the Medina (due to a fault in the strata), in the centre of the island, and those of the Eastern and Western Yar, at either extremity: the rivers, like the Arun, Adur, and Ouse in Sussex, forcing their way in a direction transverse to that of the Downs. Other depressions, or “bottoms” as they are locally termed, are met with between Asheys and Messly Downs, at Arreton,

* H. Eccl. iv. 16.

Shorwell, Calbourne, and Brook, across which the lines of communication between the north and south divisions of the island are carried. The range runs with a soft and undulating outline nearly in a straight course from Bembridge Down to St. George's Down to the south-east of Newport, where it terminates suddenly with a bold face to the valley of the Medina. To the west of the breach the range takes a southerly direction, and losing its simple outline, forms a double or in some places a triple line between Gatcombe and Brighstone, where it becomes single again, and resumes its direct westerly course, and beyond the breach at Freshwater Gate projects in the bold headland the escarpments of which form the magnificent cliffs of Scratchell's and Alum Bay. The greatest height attained by any part of this chain is Mottistone Down, 661·8 feet above the sea.

The southern point of the island, from Shanklin to Chale, is invested with another loftier but far shorter range of chalk downs with horizontal strata, rising with excessive steepness from the sea to a height of near 800 feet, and expanding into a broad promontory, the southern face of which is occupied by the picturesque terraces of the Undercliff. The downs run inland in long narrow spurs, divided by deep valleys with precipitous sides, whose northern escarpments form bold cliffs, rising conspicuously from the greensand valley. This range presents only one decided gap, between the village of Niton and the sea, but there are depressions above Ventnor and St. Lawrence, through which roads have been carried.

No portion of the Isle of Wight will better repay examination than these two noble ridges. The rounded summits clothed with short verdant turf, (already too much encroached on by cultivation), command the most magnificent prospects; especially where, as between the Culvers and Arreton, and again between Brighstone and the Needles, the crest is so narrow and the descent on each side so abrupt, that the eye embraces a view on either hand at once. The slopes are hollowed into coombes and dingles of great beauty, branching out and extending into deep

tortuous valleys, like dry creeks, or basin-like glens, whose steep sides are sometimes of a velvet smoothness, sometimes shaggy with gorse, with its golden blossoms scenting the breeze, sometimes dotted over with aged thorns, whose low sturdy stems hoary with lichens, as they bend away from the coast tell of the fierceness of the blasts which often rage around them; while numerous spurs are thrown off from the main chain, often rounding into bold projecting elbows, such as Chillerton, Bowcombe, Afton, and St. Boniface.

The Southern Vales and Slopes.

Between the two chalk ranges lies a wide undulating tract, consisting mainly of the formation known by geologists as "the lower greensand," an appellation somewhat perplexing to the uninitiated, as it is found white, yellow, brown, crimson, and almost every colour but green.* This formation rises into a lower ridge, which runs almost continuously across the island to the south of the Chalk Downs, and generally parallel with them, and swells continually into abrupt ridges, and sometimes isolated eminences, the flanks of which are seamed with charming hollow lanes, where the wild clematis and honeysuckle and trailing ivy half conceal the richly-coloured banks, and the polished leaves of the hart's-tongue glint in the sunshine, and graceful ferns wave their fronds, and flowers of every hue almost dazzle the beholder with their gorgeous array. Much of the higher ground is a hungry sand, till recently producing little but heath and gorse, but now fast losing its wild character, and coming under the plough. The lower districts, comprising the rich vales of Arreton and Newchurch, watered by the Yar and its innumerable tributaries—in Drayton's quaint language,

" the little rills her inlands that do feed,

Which with their lavish streams do furnish every need" —

as well as the southern slopes in the neighbourhood of Shorwell and Brighstone, are well known as an excellent

* The name, as is well known, is derived from the particles of green silicate of iron dispersed through many of the beds.

corn country. These interior portions of the island are in least repute, and are seldom visited for their own sake, but they abound in scenes of tranquil beauty, which will richly repay those who will seek for them. To enjoy them thoroughly the tourist must be content to leave the high road, and make his way over stiles and along footpaths, among lovely cottages embowered in trees, and comfortable-looking homesteads, surrounded with barns and stacks in picturesque confusion, with every here and there a quaint old weatherbeaten church and an antique-looking village with its group of grey stone thatched cottages, gay with roses, and festooned with the vine, the fig, or the myrtle, their little flower-plots bright with all the old-fashioned cottage flowers which our poets knew and loved, and here and there a rare exotic intermixed, testifying to the mildness of the climate. No one will regret sparing a little time for rambling here.

The Undercliff.

The portion of the Isle of Wight which enjoys the most widespread and deserved reputation is that known as the "Back of the Island," or the *Undercliff*, forming a series of irregular terraces from a quarter to half a mile in breadth and about six miles long, gradually sloping to the sea, caused by the subsidence of the strata along the southern face of the Chalk Downs from Bonchurch to Blackgang. (For description, see p. 241.)

The North-Eastern and North-Western Plains.

The district to the north of the central range is very different both in aspect and geological character from that we have been just describing. It is formed entirely of the formations known to geologists as the "older tertiary" or "eocene" strata; and a large portion of its surface consists of wet cold clays and argillaceous sands, offering but little either of fertility or picturesque beauty. But though as a whole the northern division is decidedly inferior to the southern, and a considerable part of the western portion is somewhat monotonous, the whole is well worth exploring.

The surface is generally undulating, and the woodland which covers a large portion of the north-eastern portion in the vicinity of Ryde and St. Helen's, though low, and containing but few fine trees, affords scope for a great variety of pleasant walks and rides, with continual glimpses of the blue Solent like a broad river and the Hampshire Hills, through the green boughs.

In former times the island is said to have been so thickly wooded that a squirrel might have leapt from tree to tree from one end to the other. The progress of agriculture has greatly diminished the woodland, robbing it of much of its picturesque coppice, while the neighbourhood of the dockyards of Portsmouth has proved fatal to its larger timber. Each year the lover of sylvan scenery has to lament the loss of some leafy glade, and though there are many pretty copses, especially near Ryde and Newtown, the only continuous tract of natural woodland is what Dr. Bromfield calls "a labyrinth of coppice," clothing the banks of the Wootton river from Haven Street to Fishbourne. These wooded tracts should not be neglected, for they are full of beauty to the eye and heart that can appreciate them aright; every here and there we come upon a patch of cultivated ground—pasture or arable—breaking the monotony of the shade—small farms and antique cottages peep out between the foliage, while the innumerable runnels and ditches are crossed by rustic bridges, which with the cattle lowing around the homestead form cool rural pictures it is pleasant even to read of.

The woodland of the *north-western district* is both less extensive and less picturesque, though in the vicinity of Swainston and Newtown there are some low oak woods intersected with pretty lanes inviting to many a pleasant ramble. The views of the Solent and of the branching arms of the Newtown Estuary gleaming through the foliage, are often exceedingly lovely. What remains of the ancient Chase or Forest of Parkhurst is now a mere "government nursery for growing oak for the dockyards," quite devoid of beauty.

The Watersheds.

In an island whose largest dimensions do not exceed 22 by 13 miles, it is evident that we cannot look for streams of any length or body of water, and it may almost provoke a smile to speak of its "rivers" and "water-systems." And, in fact, though several of them widen into broad creeks or estuaries at their mouths, the rush of the tide having gradually worn away the soft strata of the valleys through which they flow, our largest streams are but insignificant rills, which an active man can vault over without difficulty. However, in any extensive district, if we would gain a clear idea of those natural divisions on which all others more or less depend, a broad view of its drainage is absolutely essential, and there are few tracts of the same area which divide more clearly and conveniently than the Isle of Wight. The surface of the island, as Sir H. Englefield long since pointed out, may be divided into five basins or "river-systems," corresponding with the four divisions already spoken of, with the addition of the central trough of the Medina and the projecting headlands at the extremities.

1. The most extensive of these basins, comprising a large portion of the most fertile land of the island, is that of the "*Main River*," or "*Eastern Yar*,"* to the south-east. This lies between the two ranges of chalk downs to the north and south, and is bounded on the west by the range of Bleak Down and Kennerly, separating it from the valley of the Medina, and on the east by the sea. The Yar rises near Niton at the foot of the northern slope of St. Catherine's Down, and flowing by Whitwell, Godshell, and Newchurch, receiving in its course the waters of a large number of inconsiderable rills, of which the principal are those which drain the valleys of Appuldurcombe (Wheteley Brook) and Shanklin, enters upon the marshy flat of Sandown, where, instead of joining the sea at once, it turns to the north, and passing through a breach in the central chalk range between Brading and Bembridge, meanders

* The name of this river is an old Celtic root "found in the *Garumna* or *Garonne* of a kindred race across the Channel." — *Edin. Rev.*, April, 1860.

through the wide expanse of Brading Haven, and falls into the sea close to the old tower of St. Helen's Church.

2. Proceeding to the north, we enter the *north-eastern basin*, which is in fact a succession of small valleys, watered by insignificant streams, opening separately to the sea, the general direction being north-easterly. This basin is bounded by the ridge of Stapler's Heath and Whippingham to the west, and the central range and the rising ground of St. Helen's to the south. The most considerable stream is that which, rising at the foot of the Chalk Downs in *Combley wood*, forms the tidal estuary of the *Wootton river*. To the north-west of this a sluggish stream, *Palmer's Brook*, falls into the Solent at *King's Quay*; other more inconsiderable brooks occur at *Barton* and *Osborne*, *Quarr* and *Binstead*. The valley of *Smallbrook*, which extends in a south-west direction from Ryde towards Ashe, is a more marked depression, but the stream, as its name implies, is insignificant; others still smaller succeed at Puckpool and Nettlestone.

3. Both these basins are flanked on the west by that of the *Medina*, which drains the centre of the island, commencing to the west of the foot of St. Catharine's Down, near the village of Chale. "It is extremely narrow for the first two miles, near Kingston it widens a little, but its breadth does not exceed a mile until, near Gatcombe, it opens to the west and still more to the east, where another small stream rises and falls into the Medina at Black Bridge. The basin is here of a form approaching to circular, and about three miles and a half wide. The river then passes between a very narrow opening in the chalk hills, between Carisbrook to the west and St. George's Down to the east, and enters Newport,"* where it is joined by the stream of the *Lugley*, flowing from the narrow chalk valley of Bowcombe. The Medina, which has hitherto been an insignificant stream winding through boggy meadows, opens out into a wide estuary below Newport, navigable at high water for vessels of small burden, terminating in the Solent between East and West Cowes.

* Sir H. Englefield.

4. The *north-west basin*, lying between the high ground of Parkhurst Forest to the east, the central downs to the south, and the hills which bound Colwell and Totland Bays to the west, is formed, like that to the north-east, of a succession of valleys of a springy clay soil, watered by small rills. *Gurnard Vale* is the first of these; then comes *Thorness*: then the singular creek of *Newtown river*, a digitated expanse formed by the union of several dull streams, stained by the clay beds along which they creep. The last valley of this basin is the remarkable gap, severing the main chalk ridge at *Freshwater Gate*, through which the *Western Yar*, rising within a few yards of the shore, flows in a northerly direction, and quickly expanding into an estuary, falls into the sea at Yarmouth, its entire length scarcely exceeding three miles.

5. The last basin is that to *the south-west*, of a triangular form, lying between the chalk ridge, Kingston Down, and the sea. Numerous small rivulets, too insignificant to bear a name, bursting forth at the meeting of the upper more porous with the lower retentive strata, drain this district, which may be considered a continuous slope from the downs to the sea. The sea-face being everywhere high, and the strata very soft and friable, the action of the water has gradually cut deep narrow rents through the cliffs, forming gullies or chines, some of which are of a very picturesque character, receding to a considerable distance inland, and continually increasing their dimensions and changing their form. The parishes of Brook, Mottistone, Brighstone, Shorwell, and the greater part of Chale lie on this slope, which is not devoid of pleasing features, especially in the neighbourhood of the villages, where the trees have still been spared, but it is generally open and bare, well adapted for corn, which is grown here in great abundance. The coast is one of great interest to the geologist, and its chines and noble prospects afford much to gratify the ordinary tourist.

Climate.

The chalk ridge, which runs from east to west through the centre of the island, separates it into districts differing almost as widely in climate as soil and configuration. The temperature throughout the island—where, to quote Drayton once more,

“The gentle South, with kisses smooth and soft,
Doth in her bosom breathe, and seem to court her oft,” —

is warm, and the atmosphere moister than on the mainland; and myrtles, fuchsias, sweet-scented verbenas, geraniums, and other delicate plants attain a great size, and usually live throughout the winter without protection, in all but very bleak and exposed situations. But it is to the south of the Downs, especially in the district known as the Undercliff, protected by a lofty wall of Down and projecting headlands from the cold blasts from the north and east, that the equability and mildness of temperature for which the island is proverbial are most beneficially experienced. The prevailing winds are from the south-west, as is evident by the inclination of the trees in all but the most sheltered positions; but though often strong, they are not usually cold, and to its free exposure to their action in dispersing the noxious vapours or malarious miasmata which might otherwise brood over the hollows of its valleys and hang about the sides of its hills, the extreme salubrity of the island is mainly due. Contagious diseases are of rare occurrence, especially in the Undercliff, where, if they ever make their appearance, they are usually confined to the families or localities in which they first arise, instead of spreading with fatal rapidity over an entire district. Sir James Clark's testimony in favour of the Isle of Wight generally is valuable: “from the variety which it presents in point of elevation, soil, and aspect, and from the configuration of its hills and shores, it possesses several peculiarities of climate and position that render it a highly favourable residence for invalids throughout the year.” When treating of Ventnor, we have spoken more par-

ticularly of the advantages of the Undercliff for all cases of delicacy of chest or incipient consumption (see p. 234-5). For the strong and healthy the southern districts of the island may be found a somewhat relaxing and enervating residence, especially during the summer months; though even then delicious sea-breezes, setting in towards the land, relieve the excessive heat which would otherwise be experienced. Snow seldom lies for any time, and ice is not often found of sufficient strength to bear. Skating, therefore, is a pleasure almost unknown. More rain falls than on the mainland generally, but the amount is smaller, and the atmosphere far less humid than in the western counties of England. Sea fogs are not unfrequent, and, notwithstanding the peculiar and beautiful effects caused by the sudden gathering and dispersing of these evanescent phenomena, as they roll over our valleys or sweep along the flanks of our downs, they must certainly be reckoned among the evils of the island. To the invalid they are most injurious, and exposure to their influence is carefully to be guarded against; while to the ordinary tourist they not unfrequently cause much disappointment, veiling the whole of the scenery in dense wreaths of snow-white vapours, and effectually shutting out all view for more than a few yards' distance. The only remedy in such cases is patience; and the sea fogs, especially in the summer, are seldom of more than three or four hours' duration.

The remarkable healthiness of the Isle of Wight is demonstrated by the returns of the annual rate of mortality in different parts of England, in which it contrasts very favourably with other watering-places. The mean annual rate in the island for the ten years 1841-1852 was seventeen deaths out of every 1,000, and for the three months ending June 30, 1857, thirteen; while at Tunbridge the corresponding rates were 20, 21, at Clifton 23, 16, and at Kendal, including the Lake district, 20, 18. Eastbourne only exceeds it in salubrity, where both the rates are the same, 13.

Tides.

Approximate times of high water at new and full moon,
(communicated by Mr. Christensen, Horologist, Cowes.)

Newport Quay	-	-	11.50	Ventnor	-	-	10.25
Cowes	-	-	11.50	St. Catherine's	-	-	10.15
Ryde	-	-	11.20	Atherfield	-	-	10.10
St. Helen's	-	-	11. 0	Brook	-	-	10. 0
Sandown	-	-	10.40	Freshwater Gate	-	-	9.55
Shanklin	-	-	10.35	Needles	-	-	9.40
Yarmouth			-	-	-	-	10.0

The varying range of the tide on the shores of the Isle of Wight is thus indicated by Mr. Burdwood, R.N., in the Admiralty Tide Tables :—

	AT SPRINGS	AT NEAPS
At Needles Point	7½	3
„ West Cowes	12½	6½
„ Bembridge Point	14	6½

The set and velocity of the tidal streams around the island are fully described by the same authority, and exhibit interesting features, especially at the Nab Light, where the stream is nearly rotary; but as a brief extract would not do justice to the subject, and the original may be easily obtained at a very low price, we must be content with referring to Mr. Burdwood's work.

Table of Elevations.

St. Boniface Down	-	-	-	-	783·9
Dunnose (Shanklin Down)	-	-	-	-	771·9
St. Catherine's (foot of old Lighthouse)	-	-	-	-	769·4
Shanklin Down (North)	-	-	-	-	736·7
Lord Yarborough's Signal, Appuldurcombe Down	-	-	-	-	735·8
Week Down	-	-	-	-	690·5
Worsley's Obelisk (ground)	-	-	-	-	685·5
Hoy's Pillar (top)	-	-	-	-	672·8
Mottiston Down	-	-	-	-	661·8
Gore Cliff	-	-	-	-	591·0
Nodes Beacon, Freshwater Down	-	-	-	-	483·0
Needles, Old Lighthouse (top)	-	-	-	-	474·4

Ashey Down - - - - -	424·8
Bembridge Down - - - - -	355·0
Chale Church Tower - - - - -	323·3
Carisbrook Castle (ground) - - - - -	239·1
St. Lawrence Ch. (belfry) - - - - -	231·5
Ventnor Ch. (top of spire) - - - - -	228·8
Steephill Castle (top) - - - - -	216·0
Hempstead Hill - - - - -	210·0
Sandown Ch. (top of spire) - - - - -	180·3
Bonchurch (Flag-staff) - - - - -	138·3
Ventnor, Devonshire Terrace - - - - -	116·9
Woody Point - - - - -	116·3

For the whole of these elevations, with the exception of Gore Cliff and Bembridge (which are taken from Webster), and Hempstead Hill (from Forbes), this work is indebted to the courtesy of Captain Clarke, R. E., of H. M. Ordnance Survey.

CHAPTER II.

AGRICULTURE, PRODUCTS, MANUFACTURES, &c.

AGRICULTURE : Characteristics—Peculiarities—Defects—Wheat—Exportation of Flour—Sheep, Lambs, and Wool—Oxen, Cows, Dairy, Cheese—Farmsteads — Wages.

PRODUCTS and MANUFACTURES :—Timber, Corn Mills—Lace Mill—Cement Mills—Shipbuilders—Glass-house Sand—Bricks—Ironstone—Alum—Salt—Fisheries—Oyster Beds.

THE Isle of Wight is a purely agricultural district, though, from the variations in its soil and peculiarities of its climate, it is perhaps more difficult to speak in general terms of its farming than of any other district of England.

A stranger whose pleasure-trip carries him round the island in a few days would probably pronounce the soil to be inferior and the cultivation bad. Here and there a piece of better farming may be observed ; but the cold clays which for the most part extend all along the north side of the island, and the broken ground of the south, offer few oppor-

tunities for the profitable investment of capital and the consequent good management of the land. The trees, especially the oaks, are small and stunted, and but little fine timber will meet his eye. On the whole, he would see little or nothing to demand the admiration of an agriculturist, and he would probably leave the place with a feeling that the hopes with which he had been induced to visit the so-called "Garden of England" had been mainly disappointed. And yet in the interior, especially to the south of the Chalk Hills, which form, as it were, the backbone of the island, would be found land as good and farms as well cultivated as in any part of England. Nor are these good farms and good farmers confined merely to the interior: in the extreme east, west, and south of the island are admirable specimens of both, and even on the northern part the Prince-Consort sets a personal example of improvement, and shows how much may be attained by good management.

But to form a correct judgment of the agriculture of the Isle of Wight would require a more careful observation than visitors are generally able to bestow, and an experience of several years should be acquired before an agricultural critic should condemn any course of management which at first sight might appear injudicious. The observations of two most able and experienced judges of practical agriculture may be quoted in support of these remarks, and may be received as most sound and impartial testimony on the subject. The one, whose residence in the island and personal acquaintance with every part of it rendered his knowledge of the value of land within it of the greatest accuracy, has declared that an ordinary valuer might be deceived in his estimate of a farm in the Isle of Wight almost to the extent of 10s. per acre by simply going into the field at one end instead of the other, so great is the variation of soil. The other, whose experience was gained in one of the best-farmed districts of England, and who first came to the Isle of Wight with a conviction that its agriculture was in a backward state, and that the farmers were but indifferent managers, admitted after a more accurate and continued observation of several years that his first impres-

sions had been hastily formed, and that he had come to the conclusion that the local peculiarities of soil and climate were such that no man was competent to decide on the best mode of farming in the Isle of Wight without a personal and practical experience of several years. We may not, however, go the length of saying that the island farming is the best that can be adopted here. We believe that in general it is open to the following criticisms:—

1. There is an apparent want of capital among farmers for the extension of improvements.

2. There is an apparent want of enterprise and energy produced by a fear of introducing novelties even where their success has been established.

3. There is a jealousy of strangers coming amongst them, and a disinclination, both on the part of masters and servants, to receive instructive information from them.

4. There is a want of due economy in the use of the means they possess, exemplified in the buying too many inferior horses and the continued use of old-fashioned and inferior implements.

We believe, indeed, that these defects are gradually lessening. Within the last twenty years vast progress has been made, but the general practice of agriculture in the Isle of Wight has suffered serious drawbacks from the cause referred to. Increasing intercourse with all parts of England, and the beneficial results of agricultural associations, will no doubt by degrees make the farming of the island as good as its local advantages are many.

The staple produce of the island, for many centuries, has been wheat, and fifty years since it was estimated to produce more in one year than its inhabitants could consume in eight. Towards the close of the last century Sturch sets the home consumption at hardly one-tenth of its produce, and describes the island as “in a measure the granary of the western counties, and the chief resource of the Government contracts for wheat, malt, flour, and biscuit.” The extraordinary increase in population during the last quarter of a century has turned the scale, and though the Newport markets are still attended by corn merchants from many of

the principal towns in Hampshire, and considerable quantities are exported, the islanders are now importers of wheat and other corn, so that the balance is on the import side. The quality of corn produced is for the most part good, chiefly of the more hardy kind, known as *red* wheat.

White wheats are successfully grown on the best and most sheltered lands. The lighter soils of the southern part of the island are very favourable for barley, while the stiffer clays of the north grow capital crops of oats. As a rule, the four-field system is that generally adopted, but it is not unusual on the stiff clays to take a crop of Lent corn after wheat, the land being laid open for a winter fallow, and then follow this up by two green crops—grass and turnips in succession; this rotation being found preferable in such soils to the alternated cropping of lighter soils.

There are peculiarities in the pasturage and grazing of the Isle of Wight. The chalk downs afford most admirable sheep pasturage, and the flocks of South-Downs and other sheep may challenge competition with any district. The Isle of Wight is famous for early lamb. Large numbers of ewes are annually brought over from the mainland to lamb in the island, in addition to its own large flocks, and besides the great and fast increasing home consumption, full 4,000 lambs are yearly sent to supply the London market. On some of the warmer and better farms in the interior grass-fed lamb may always be obtained as early as Christmas and January. The breeds of sheep most usually kept are the pure South-Downs, or Dorsets, or crosses between these and Somersets. These last are found to be a very useful and profitable flock, and large importations are annually made. The island wool is deservedly celebrated for its fineness; "not Lemster's self can show a finer fleece," as old Drayton sings. As many as 3,500 sheep and lambs are shorn annually, yielding 5,000 tods of wool (28lbs. to the tod). All is exported, chiefly to the Yorkshire markets, from which factors visit the island in the shearing season.

The practice of fattening oxen, though it has much increased of late years, does not exist to a very great extent. Old persons still living may remember the time when the

principal butcher at Newport always went to Salisbury at Christmas for his fat oxen, and on his return paraded his purchases round the town, bedecked with ribbons, refusing to sell any portion of them except to his regular customers during the rest of the year. The Christmas market, however, has for years past shown most admirable specimens of home-fed fat oxen, and the island butchers are now well supplied all through the year with excellent beef. But it is the dairy which in general monopolises the field pasturage of the island, and the milk and butter are excellent, finding ready customers in the purveyors for the increasing number of towns springing up in every part. The cows are for the most part crosses from the Norman breeds, and are large and profitable milkers, but with no pretensions to beauty. In some cases pure Alderneys are found, and Devons. Cheese is not made, excepting a poor hard kind from the skimmed milk, known as "*Isle of Wight Rock*," respecting which tradition relates that, a vessel being freighted to London with millstones and Isle of Wight cheeses, the rats ate the millstones and left the cheese untouched !

A very large extent of draining has been most successfully carried on within the last few years, and the results have proved most beneficial both to the owners and occupiers of farms.

The farmsteads of the island are generally of a superior kind. Very many of the old mansion houses of former land-owners have been converted into farm-houses, and the lover of the picturesque will find among them some charming specimens of architectural beauty. These form superior residences, and of course are inhabited by the higher classes of agriculturists, either as owners or occupiers. Many of them possess magnificent specimens of old barns ; and large barns are indeed, in some degree, a peculiar feature of the island farmsteads, the dampness of the climate having formerly rendered it desirable, before the introduction of machinery, to house as much corn as possible. From a similar principle, the rick-yards are always close to the barn. The stacking of corn in the fields is a modern innovation, and rarely practised.

The wages of agricultural labourers are low, varying from 7s. and 8s., when prices are low, to 12s. when they are high ; but it must be added that on the generality of farms, labourers, especially those occupying cottages attached to them, have several perquisites granted them which make a material difference in the actual price of their labour. The rent of cottages is two guineas a-year, which is usually secured to the farmer by the wages of the harvest month. There is usually at least a quarter of an acre of land annexed to each cottage. The almost exclusive right of gleaning is reserved to the families of the farm labourers. Barley is given for their pigs ; oftentimes a ridge of land for potatoes. Fuel is given, and coals carted for the labourers ; so that while the nominal wages are low, probably 1s. 6d. or 2s. a-week may be added in some other form. But the money payment is the standard of the price of labour, and the poor who do not enjoy such little additions as the regular farm labourers suffer in their actual rate of wages accordingly.

Our *Forests* once supplied a large quantity of timber for the service of the dockyard. In the early part of the last French war, when oak commanded a high price at Portsmouth, the late Sir William Oglander is said to have cut down timber to the value of 80,000*l.* on his estate at Nunwell alone. But this supply is almost entirely exhausted. With but few exceptions the timber is small, and before the general introduction of seaborne coal the inhabitants were forced to import wood for fuel.

A large number of mills, many of which have been worked continuously from Saxon times — thirty-four are enumerated in the Domesday Survey — are driven by the small but copious streams, and produce the flour which has for centuries been the staple produce of the island. There are also large tidal mills on the Estuaries of the Medina, Wootton River, and Western Yar, and in Brading Haven. Windmills are almost unknown.

The only manufactory proper is a lace mill, at Newport, which has been established there for more than half a century. The “ Isle of Wight lace ” used to be of great celebrity, and as many as 600 or 700 hands were employed in its

production thirty years ago. Its name is still a bait to catch the traveller; but the mill is now entirely confined to the production of *blonde*, i.e. silk lace, and the manufacture has been long on the decline.

The shipbuilding yards of the Messrs. White at West Cowes give employment to a large number of hands, and many vessels of considerable tonnage are built there. The yards of Messrs. Ratsey and others are famous for their yachts. (See pp. 30, 31.)

There are Cement Mills on the West bank of the Medina below Newport, belonging to the Messrs. Frances of "Nine Elms," in which the *Septaria* dredged from the bed of the Solent are pulverized and manufactured into cement.*

The beds of *Pipe-clay* are not much used, it being found difficult to work them cleanly, owing to the narrowness of the veins and the tendency of the surrounding cliffs to founder.

One of the most considerable exports from the Isle of Wight is the pure white *Glass-house Sand* obtained in Alum Bay from the lower beds of Headon Hill, of which, in the six years between 1850 and 1855, no less than 21,984 tons were shipped from Yarmouth, principally to London and Bristol.

The *Clay Ironstone*, which is found in considerable quantities lying loose upon the shore below Hempstead Cliffs, as well as the nodules of pyrites, which abound along the south-eastern and south-western coasts, are collected on the beach and sent to Swansea, and there smelted.

Bricks are made in large numbers from the clays of nearly all the tertiary strata, and in some places from those of the lower greensand formation. There are several kilns, at Ningwood, Sanford, Wroxall, &c., where an extensive manufactory of draining tiles and coarse pottery is carried on.

The manufactory of *Alum*, from which Alum Bay derives its name, which was carried on as early as 1579, has entirely ceased for many years.

* *Cement Stones* are also obtained to a small extent from Alum Bay, but the principal supply is obtained by dredging on the opposite coast of Hampshire.

There were once extensive *Salterns* at Nettlestone, Cowes, and Newtown, and at the last-named place salt is still made in small quantities.

The *Fisheries* of the island are not very productive, though in the season a considerable number of mackerel, herrings, and whittings are caught. The southern rocky shores abound with delicious crabs and lobsters, and great quantities of fine prawns are caught in the same localities.

There are extensive *Oyster beds* in the tidal estuaries, especially those of the Medina and Newtown rivers. The oysters are too large to be generally popular, but their flavour is extremely delicate, and it is asserted that our neighbours the French esteem them very highly.

CHAPTER III.

LOCAL AFFAIRS.

CIVIL—The Governor—Magistracy, &c.—Parliamentary Representation—Municipal Corporations—Population—Relief of the Poor—County and Police Rates—Rateable Value—Roads, Turnpikes, &c.—Coast-guard Service.

RELIGIOUS—East Medina Deanery—West Medina Deanery—Ecclesiastical Districts—Census of Religious Worship—Educational Statistics.

CIVIL ADMINISTRATION.

THE GOVERNOR.

FROM the time that the Lordship of the Isle of Wight passed to the Crown, it has been always committed to the care of a Captain or Governor of its own, an office at one period of great honour and considerable emolument, as well as involving no small responsibility. As communication became easier and more regular, and the distinction between the island and the mainland gradually passed away, the importance of the Governor's office diminished and his authority was curtailed, until, in

common with the Governorship of the three castles of Cowes, Sandown, and Yarmouth, it had become no more than a lucrative sinecure, affording a valuable piece of patronage to the minister of the day. Lord Malmesbury was the last Governor who enjoyed the emoluments of the office; on his death its revenues merged in the national exchequer, and his successors, Lord Heytesbury and the present Governor, Viscount Eversley, have enjoyed a wholly honorary position.

Magistracy, &c.

The Isle of Wight is constituted a parliamentary division of the County of Southampton, comprising the Hundreds of East and West Medina. The Magistrates of the island meet in Petty Sessions at the Guild-Hall at Newport every Saturday at 12 o'clock, and the Borough Magistrates assemble at the same place on Mondays; any offenders committed by them are transferred to Winchester Jail, and are tried at the County assizes.

The *County Court* is held at the same place every month, the times being appointed by the Judge to suit the convenience of the Court.

Parliamentary Representation.

Before the Parliamentary Reform Act came into operation in 1832, the Isle of Wight contributed no less than six members to the House of Commons, viz. two from each of the Boroughs of Newport, Newtown, and Yarmouth. Those for Newport and Yarmouth were nominated by the family of Holmes, which also had influence at Newtown, though nullified by the union of the Worsleys and Barringtons, who together possessed the larger part of the burgage tenements. These privileges were ruthlessly swept away by the Reform Act, which reduced the island members to half their original number, retaining the two for Newport, though throwing open the elective franchise, and assigning a single member to the island generally. The electors on the Register in 1858, exclusive of Newport, amounted to 1,826; the population in 1851 being 50,324, and the number of inhabited houses 7,378.

The Parliamentary Borough of Newport consists of the Parish of Newport and parts of those of St. Nicholas, Carisbrook, Northwood, and Whippingham, with a population of 8,047 persons. The number of electors on the Register in 1857 was returned as 654; and the number of inhabited houses in 1851 was 1,550.

There are three towns having above 2,000 inhabitants without parliamentary representation, viz. Cowes, with 4,786 inhabitants; Ryde, with 7,147; and Ventnor, with 2,569.

Municipal Corporations.

Newport is the only town in the island governed by the Municipal Corporation Act (5 & 6 Wm. iv. c. 76). The corporations of Newtown, Brading, and Yarmouth were too insignificant to come under the operation of the Act. The two latter still exist, but their functions and privileges are little more than nominal. The Corporation of Newtown, which merely existed as an instrument for retaining the parliamentary representation in the same hands, sunk out of sight after the Reform Bill, its last act being the sale of the corporate property and the re-erection of the chapel at Newtown with the proceeds.

Population.

The annexed tables give a general conspectus of the population of the Isle of Wight in 1781, 1801, 1841, and 1851, as given in the returns of the last census. It will be seen that the number of inhabitants has been more than doubled—an increase of 28,219 on 22,105—in the last 50 years; a ratio somewhat in advance of the mean rate of increase for the whole of England, according to which the population would take 51 years to double itself. The density of the population is greater than the average for England generally, though the disproportion is somewhat less than it was 50 years since. In 1801 there were four acres to each person in England and Wales; and in 1851, two acres, the proportion for the Isle of Wight at the same dates being 3·81 and 1·875.

	POPULATION.				HOUSES.				Area in Statute Acres.	Gross Estimated Rental, 1858.				
	1781.	1801.	1841.	1851.		1801.	1841.				1851.			
				Males.	Fems.		Total.	Inhabited.			Uninhabited.	Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	Build- ing.
Arretton -	1,163	1,374	1,964	988	914	1,902	232	4	361	16	1	8,833	-	£9,917
Binstead	154	180	278	144	173	317	26	-	50	5	-	1,475	335	1,268
Bonchurch	86	69	302	201	317	523	-	-	51	3	6	618	70	2,531
Brading -	1,388	1,537	2,701	1,501	1,545	3,046	247	6	520	37	3	10,107	543	14,753
Brighstone	550	448	710	354	339	695	89	4	135	4	-	3,251	100	3,945
Brook -	133	83	150	85	72	157	17	1	30	-	-	713	-	981
Calbourne	647	695	750	387	394	781	122	2	148	6	1	6,397	265	3,527
Carisbrook	1,245	2,353	5,613	4,314	3,316	7,630	302	8	949	66	9	7,409	-	14,670
Chale -	353	391	610	320	309	629	65	-	114	1	9	2,375	80	3,683
Freshwater	520	605	1,299	705	688	1,393	108	4	250	11	1	5,242	280	4,443
Gatcombe	240	222	306	124	135	260	28	2	45	-	-	1,392	-	2,180
Godshill	1,100	1,079	1,435	661	655	1,316	186	8	240	5	2	6,535	-	7,876
Kingston	30	37	73	35	30	65	4	-	10	-	-	883	-	1,186
Mottiston	166	159	176	74	69	143	25	-	33	1	-	1,107	-	817
Newchurch	1,505	2,039	8,370	5,094	6,445	11,539	335	3	1,454	76	16	9,240	470	52,081
Newport	2,317	3,585	3,858	1,871	2,123	3,994	564	11	733	64	1	761	60	-
Niton -	267	288	613	321	363	684	56	2	121	3	-	1,337	475	3,867
Northwood	2,080	2,771	5,147	3,155	2,894	6,049	465	17	914	56	-	1,000	-	17,411
St. Helens	417	550	1,373	932	1,015	1,948	100	3	273	25	-	3,676	184	7,834
St. Lawrence	77	76	114	53	58	111	13	-	23	2	1	332	-	708
St. Nicholas	176	248	275	121	144	265	38	-	49	3	-	410	-	1,003
Shalfeet -	599	626	1,218	645	600	1,245	107	4	237	7	-	6,623	400	4,628
Shanklin	100	105	462	155	200	355	33	6	85	-	-	802	130	1,731
Shorwell	524	492	714	347	331	678	69	3	131	-	-	3,685	40	4,657
Thorley -	143	128	163	87	67	154	19	-	26	-	-	1,574	-	1,446
Whippingham	779	1,089	2,518	1,533	1,567	3,100	192	-	466	41	2	5,208	580	12,044
Whitwell	344	405	660	327	310	637	64	-	117	2	3	1,963	80	2,800
Wootton	42	38	51	19	39	58	4	-	8	1	-	1,360	282	875
Yarmouth	268	343	567	267	305	572	71	1	114	8	-	143	50	1,745
Yaverland	81	90	80	36	42	78	14	3	15	1	-	1,834	960	1,011
Totals	17,494	22,105	42,550	24,865	25,450	50,324	3,596	92	7,722	448	55	99,74	5,384	£185,518

* Exclusive of the Borough of Newport.

Relief of the Poor—County and Police Rates.

Since the year 1770 the whole of the rates for the relief of the poor throughout the island have been consolidated, and the parishes formed into a single union; the prototype of the Poor-Law Unions which have since been created throughout the country by the operation of the new Poor Law. The Poor House for the island, or House of Industry, as it is termed, stands a little to the north of Newport, on the road to Cowes (*see* p. 42.). It will accommodate 700 persons. It is under the superintendence of 24 directors and 36 acting guardians, who appoint the necessary officers and check the weekly accounts. The directors are self-elected; 12 retire every 30th June—the 12 who retire and the 12 who remain choosing the 12 new directors. The 36 acting guardians are chosen by the directors and guardians out of the lists of qualified persons returned by the several vestries. The Board of 60 is divided into 12 committees of 7 each for the ensuing year, each acting for a month. The gross amount of the poor-rate for the year 1858–9 was 10,869*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*; the “maintenance charges” amounted to 3,753*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*; the “establishment charges,” salaries, repairs, furniture, &c. to 2,178*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*; “general charges,” vaccination, registration, &c. to 250*l.* 9*s.* 7½*d.*; “out-relief charges” to 5,678*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*—making the gross payments for the year 11,860*l.* 14*s.* 11½*d.*; and the net total expense 10,795*l.* 7*s.* 11½*d.*, a decrease of 737*l.* 3*s.* 1½*d.* compared with 1857–8. The weekly average number of inmates of the House of Industry for 1858–9 was 468, and the average number of lunatics chargeable at the County Lunatic Asylum, 55. There are five relieving officers for the island, acting for the districts of which Newport, Ryde, Whippingham, Godshell, and Calbourne are the centres, each of which has also a Registrar of Births and Deaths. Frederick Blake, Esq., is Coroner for the island.

The County Rates for the year 1858–9 amounted to 2,325*l.* 18*s.* 8½*d.*, and the Police Rates to 1,674*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*

Rateable Value.

A Parliamentary return of 1858 gives the gross estimated rental of the Isle of Wight, exclusive of the Parliamentary Borough of Newport, as 185,518*l.*, the rateable value of the same, 154,354*l.* According to a return taken in the reign of Charles I., for the purpose of levying ship money and subsidies, the gross rental, including Newport, was 44,890*l.* The annexed table supplies the details for the respective parishes:—

	Gross estimated Rental— <i>temp.</i> Ch. I.	1858.			Persons rated above £50.	On the Electoral Register.
		Gross esti- mated Rental.	Rateable value.	Persons rated from £10 to £50.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Arreton - - - -	2,400	9,917	8,023	45	32	69
Binstead - - - -		1,268	11,195	17	6	12
Bonchurch - - - -		2,531	2,397	26	16	23
Brading - - - -	2,350	14,753	12,775	147	48	146
Brighstone- Brook - - - -	1,400	3,945	2,541	6	14	4
Calbourne - - - -	—	981	947	5	1	4
Carisbrook - - - -	15,400	3,527	3,196	20	14	16
Chale - - - -	2,480	14,670	12,888	153	59	262
Freshwater - - - -	1,120*	3,683	2,220	17	8	37
Gatcombe - - - -	2,400†	4,443	4,158	23	23	63
Godshill - - - -	700	2,180	1,811	4	8	9
Kingston - - - -	2,500	7,876	6,760	32	31	45
Mottiston - - - -	—	1,086	933	2	4	4
Newchurch - - - -	400	817	705	3	6	5
Niton - - - -	2,500	52,081	43,605	892	203	480
Northwood, (part) - - - -	740	3,867	3,553	25	15	40
Saint Helen's - - - -	1,440	17,411	13,583	334	48	227
St. Lawrence - - - -	700	7,834	6,916	84	29	84
St. Nicholas, (part) - - - -	190	708	667	4	5	1
Shalfleet - - - -	280	1,003	933	7	5	9
Shanklin - - - -	2,150	4,628	4,118	33	25	63
Shorwell - - - -	400‡	1,731	1,511	43	5	26
Thorley - - - -	1,560	4,657	3,004	8	13	23
Whippingham - - - -	560	1,446	1,374	3	5	3
Whitwell - - - -	1,200	12,044	8,968	70	33	100
Wootton - - - -	840	2,800	2,468	13	15	25
Yarmouth - - - -	600	875	800	2	8	6
Yaverland - - - -	560	1,745	1,405	30	4	27
	80	1,011	890	—	3	3
	44,890	185,518	154,344	2048	687	1826

* With Kingston † With Brook. ‡ With Bonchurch. § With Binstead.

Roads, Turnpikes, &c.

The Isle of Wight has long been famed for the excellence of its roads. Abounding in materials of the best quality, and possessing good natural drainage, both from the general

nature of the soil, and the configuration of its surface, the roads are readily constructed and easily maintained in good condition. In 1808, before the establishment of turnpike gates, Vancouver writes (*Agricultural Survey of Hampshire*, p. 392), "the convenience of travelling through this highly favoured spot is not to be surpassed by any part of Britain," owing to "the goodness and abundance of materials, and the attention of the resident gentry and respectable tenants, by the enforcement of the regular, timely, and judicious performance of Statute Labour; procuring most suitable materials, and applying them in the most judicious way: in short, effecting everything that may be worthy of imitation in other places." The Highway Act authorising the taking of toll was passed in 1813, and turnpike gates were set up throughout the island; but they are so few in number and the tolls so moderate in amount, as to offer little impediment to the excursions of tourists. One payment clears for the next 8 miles travelled. The gross receipts of the tolls in the year 1857-8 amounted to 1,826*l.* 10*s.*; after paying for repairs, rent, and legal expenses, the net ditto 995*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*—from a 6*d.* rate, 1,768*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* The expense of the repairs of the roads in the same period was 5,804*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*, the outgoings having exceeded the income by 2,091*l.* 19*s.*, principally in consequence of the costly alterations of the road at Apes Down, between Carisbrook and Calbourne.

Coastguard Service.

In former years there were few parts of England in which smuggling was more rife than the Isle of Wight. The fishing population of the coast, as a rule, engaged in it; and even the farmers and superior tradesmen of the island had no objection to profit by a little contraband trade when occasion presented. The mansion of Appley, near Ryde, built by David Boyce, a notorious smuggler (Route 33), is a standing evidence of the lucrative nature of the trade. The numerous chines and retired inlets of the coast afforded safe receptacles for contraband goods, which might there long elude the not very searching eyes of the Government official. Luccombe Chine was in Hassell's

time (1790) used for this purpose, "many hundred casks being sometimes secreted in its cavities, and there securely concealed." The older inhabitants will tell you many a wild tale of conflicts between the smugglers and the protectors of the more lawful traffic, and will point out to you on the Culvers and Freshwater Downs where the "runs" formerly existed, and the chalky edge of the cliff was worn into a channel by the ropes with which the casks were hoisted from the beach below. The removal of import duties, and the establishment of a vigorous coastguard service, has happily rendered all this a tale of the past; and though contraband trade still exists to a certain extent, smuggling has been rapidly decreasing in the Isle of Wight, and the recent changes in the tariff will go far to extinguish it altogether.

The coastguard service consists of three divisions, each under its own commanding officer, whose head-quarters are at Cowes, Yarmouth, and Ryde respectively. The stations in the first district are East Cowes, Newtown, and Fishbourne, with detachments at Gurnard Bay and Stislet: those in the second, Yarmouth, Totland, Brook, Atherfield, and St. Catherine's, with detachments at Alum Bay, Freshwater Gate, Brighstone, and Reeth Bay: those in the third, Ventnor, Sandown, Bembridge, and Ryde, with detachments at Woody Bay, St. Lawrence, Shanklin, Whitecliff Bay, Seaview, and Spring Vale, with an average of six men at a station and five at a detachment, including officers.

Religious.

Although the Isle of Wight received the Christian religion from Selsey, the original seat of the Bishopric of Chichester, it has formed part of the see of Winchester from before the time of Bede. It was one of the places named in the Act of 26 Henry VIII. to be constituted a Suffragan Bishopric; a dignity it certainly enjoyed in the time of William of Wykeham, and perhaps at other periods. In the Episcopate of Bishop Woodlock, 1305 — 1316, it was under the superintendence of the "Dean of

the Island." At present there are two "Deans Rural," taking oversight of the deaneries of the East and West Medina.

The island contains forty-three parishes or ecclesiastical districts, twenty-three in the East, and twenty in the West Medina. Of these the Lord Chancellor presents to three; the Governor to one; the Bishop of Winchester to three; the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol to one; the University of Oxford, Trinity and St. John's College, Cambridge, and Eton College, each to one; and Queen's College, Oxford, to six; and twelve are in private patronage.

EAST MEDINA DEANERY.

W. SPENCER PHILLIPS, *Rural Dean*.

		Incumbent.	Patron.	Inc.	Pop.
Arreton, <i>V.</i>	St. George . . .	J. B. Snow . .	J. Fleming, Esq.	£ 220	1,902
Bembridge, <i>P. C.</i> . .	Holy Trinity . .	J. Le Mesurier	<i>V.</i> of Brading .	100	855
Binstead, <i>R.</i>	Holy Cross . . .	P. Hewett . .	Bp. of Winton .	80	317
Bonchurch, <i>R.</i> . . .	St. Boniface . .	E. Carr . . .	Dr. Leeson . .	85	523
Brading, <i>V.</i>	St. Mary	D. J. Heath .	Trin. C. Camb.	250	3,046*
Cowes, East, <i>P. C.</i> .	St. James . . .	W. V. Hennah	{ <i>R.</i> of Whip- pingham }	135	1,440
Godshill, <i>V.</i>	All Saints . . .	[see Niton]			1,316
St. Helens, <i>P. C.</i> . .		W. H. Dearsley	Eton College .	121	1,948
St. Lawrence, <i>R.</i> . .		C. Levingston.	{ <i>E.</i> of Yar- borough }	106	111
Newchurch, <i>V.</i> . . .	All Saints . . .	W. S. Phillips.	Bp. of Gloucester	460	11,539†
Niton, <i>R.</i>	St. John	G. Hayton . .	Q. Coll. Oxford	600	684
Ryde				. .	. .
St. Thomas, <i>P. C.</i> .		W. S. Phillips.	{ <i>V.</i> of New- church }	. .	. .
Holy Trinity, <i>P. C.</i> .		A. J. Wade .		. .	2,529
St. James, <i>P. C.</i> . .		H. Ewbank. .		. .	. .
St. John's, } <i>P. C.</i> .		C. J. Garrard .	<i>V.</i> of St. Helens	100	1,001
Oakfield, }		F. Kent . . .	Rev. F. Kent .	40	400
Haven St., <i>P. C.</i> . .	St. Peter . . .	W. Thomas .	{ Ch. Patron- age Soc. }	. .	1,030
Sandown, <i>P. C.</i> . . .	Christ Church	G. W. Southouse	{ F. White Popham }	. .	355
Shanklin, <i>P. C.</i> . . .	{ St. John B. or St. Blaise }	G. Prothero .	Ld. Chancellor	757	3,100
Whippingham, <i>R.</i> . .	St. Mildred. .	[see Niton]		. .	637
Whitwell, <i>P. C.</i> . . .	St. Rhadegund	R. H. Scott .	{ F. White Popham }	240	58
Wootton, <i>R.</i>	St. Edmund .	J. Marland .	J. Hambrough	. .	2,660
Ventnor, <i>P. C.</i> . . .	St. Catherine .	R. Sherson .	{ Sir G. E. Hamond }	230	78
Yaverland, <i>R.</i> . . .				. .	. .

* Including Sandown.

† Including Ryde and Ventnor.

WEST MEDINA DEANERY.

REV. EDWARD MACALL, *Rural Dean.*

		Incumbent.	Patron.	Inc.	Pop.
Barton Village, <i>P.C.</i>	St. Paul . .	W. L. Sharpe .	{ <i>R. of Whilp-</i> <i>pingam</i> }	£ 190	1,162
Brighstone, <i>R.</i> . .	St. Mary . .	E. Macall . .	Bp. of Winton	515	695
Brook, <i>R.</i> . . .	St. Mary . .	J. P. Gaze . .	Mrs. Gaze . .	250	157
Calbourne } with } <i>R.</i> . .	{ All Saints }	A. M. Hoare .	Bp. of Winton	464	781
Newtown, }	{ Holy Spirit }				
Carlsbrook, <i>V.</i> . .	St. Mary . .	E. B. James .	Q. Coll. Oxford	1,123	7,630*
St. John's, <i>P. C.</i> .		R. Hollings .	R. Hollings .	. . .	2,951
Chale, <i>R.</i>	St. Andrew .	A. W. Gother .	J. Theobald .	334	629
Cowes, West, <i>P. C.</i>		J. B. Atkinson	<i>V. of Carisbrk.</i>	256	3,786
Holy Trinity, <i>P. C.</i>		M. Geneste .	Mrs. Goodwin	85	1,013
Freshwater, <i>R.</i> .	All Saints . .	J. F. Isaacson	{ <i>St. John's</i> } <i>C. Camb.</i> }	710	1,393
Gatcombe, <i>R.</i> . .	St. Olave . .	J. Barrow . .	Univ. of Oxf. .	646	260
Kingston, <i>R.</i> . .		J. B. Atkinson	G. H. Ward, Esq.	204	65
Mottistone, <i>R.</i> . .	{ <i>St. Peter and</i> } <i>St. Paul</i> }	T. Renwick .	[<i>see Shorwell</i>]	403	143
St. Nicholas Chapl.		W. Sewell . .	The Governor	24	265
Newport, <i>R.</i> . .	{ <i>St. Thomas</i> } <i>of</i> }	G. H. Connor	Q. Coll. Oxford	200	3,994
	{ <i>Canterbury</i> }				
Northwood, <i>V.</i> . .	St. John . .	[<i>see Carisbrook</i>]		. . .	1,260†
Shalfleet, <i>V.</i> . . .		T. Cottle . .	Ld. Chancellor	210	1,245
Shorwell, <i>V.</i> . . .	St. Peter . .	[<i>see Mottiston</i>]		. . .	678
Thorley, <i>R.</i> . . .	St. Mary . .	T. Hockley .	C. R. Colville	100	154
Yarmouth, <i>R.</i> . .	St. James . .	J. Blackburne	Ld. Chancellor	100	572

* Including 918 military in Parkhurst Barracks.
† Exclusive of West Cowes.

In addition to the thirty parishes of which the statistics are given above, the Isle of Wight contains three towns of above 2,000 inhabitants—Ryde, West Cowes, and Ventnor—and ten ecclesiastical districts formed out of various out-lying portions of the ancient parishes, of which the following table gives details:—

TOWNS.

	HOUSES.						POPULATION.			
	1841.			1851.			1841.	1851.		
	Inh.	Unin.	Build.	Inh.	Unin.	Build.		M.	F.	Total.
Ryde - -	1,009	63	11	1,265	66	7	5,840	3,383	4,117	7,147
West Cowes-	733	50	—	814	70	1	4,107	2,417	2,369	4,786
Ventnor -	248	5	2	5,24	32	5	1,469	1,403	1,652	3,055

ECCLESIASTICAL DISTRICTS.

	HOUSES. 1851.			POPULATION. 1857.			Constituted by Order of Council.	
	Inh.	Unln.	Build.	M.	F.	Total.		
Bembridge -	183	16	—	407	448	855	16th August,	1827
Barton St. Paul	227	33	5	586	576	1,162	17th April,	1844
Carisbrook, } St. John }	599	50	10	1,355	1,596	2,951		
Cowes, W. } Trinity }	199	30	—	406	607	1,013	21st June,	1832
Cowes, E. -	259	17	16	700	740	1,440	10th Dec.,	1842
Haven St. -	—	—	—	—	—	400	24th Oct.,	1853
Oakfield, } St. John }	180	15	24	463	538	1,001	31st Jan.,	1844
Ryde, } Trinity }	482	34	17	1,032	1,497	2,529	19th May,	1840
Sandown -	184	9	6	499	531	1,030	23rd Nov.,	1847
Ventnor -	452	28	5	1,183	1,477	2,529	9th Dec.,	1837

The annexed table gives the result of the Census of Religious Worship, as regards the Isle of Wight, taken March 30, 1851.

Protestant Churches.	Sittings.				Attendants, March 30, 1851.		
	Number of Churches.	Free.	Appropriated.	Total.	Morning.	Afternoon.	Evening.
Church of England -	39	7,425	7,895	15,320	8,857	6,500	2,932
Independents -	15	1,429	2,664	4,093	2,587	1,341	2,465
Baptists -	8	610	678	1,288	845	482	811
Friends -	1	—	—	50	10	8	—
Unitarians -	1	35	180	215	149	—	81
Wesleyan Methodists -	24	1,850	2,815	4,665	2,100	1,229	3,152
Primitive Methodists -	7	426	441	867	309	233	520
Bible Christians -	26	1,316	1,234	2,550	901	1,515	1,954
Undefined -	6	430	—	630	354	—	342
Other Christian Churches—							
Roman Catholics -	3	370	180	550	683	190	130
Latter-Day Saints -	1	50	—	50	8	13	8
Total -	131	13,941	16,087	30,278	16,803	11,511	12,405

The number of sittings assumed as the necessary accommodation for the population generally is 58 per cent. A comparison of the totals of the above table (correcting the number of sittings provided by the Church of England for

the returns not sent in, the whole amount being 17,205), with the population of the island at the same date—50,324—gives a result of 68·2 for every 100 of the population; more than 10 per cent. above the estimated necessary average. The sittings of the Church of England give an average of 34·2 per cent. against 29·6 per cent. in England generally; those of other Protestant churches 32·1 per cent. against 26 per cent. generally; the Roman Catholic chapels accommodate 1·7 per cent. of the population.

Education.

The Isle of Wight does not appear in as favourable a light as regards education as in the supply of the religious wants of its population. It is estimated by the government authorities that *one in six* should be the ratio of the population attending school; the annexed tables will show that the population in the Isle of Wight is scarcely more than *one in eight*, including every description of school. Great efforts are being made in almost every part of the island to enlarge the facilities for education and improve its character. Admirable schools have been erected at Ryde, Yarmouth, Ventnor; others are in contemplation at Cowes and elsewhere; and it cannot be questioned, that the census of 1861 will see a marked improvement in this respect.

The total number of schools in the island in 1851 was 281, including 56 “public” and 225 “private schools,” many of the latter class being mere “dame schools” of an humble character. The numbers on the books and in attendance were as follows:—

	On the Books.				In Attendance.		
	No. of Schools.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Public Schools	56	3,050	2,384	5,434	2,452	1,861	4,313
Private do.	225	1,082	1,196	2,278	1,012	1,080	2,092
Total - -	281	4,132	3,580	7,712	3,464	2,941	6,405
Sunday Schools	101	3,977	3,849	7,826	2,995	2,967	5,962
Evening do.	4	—	—	47	—	—	38

The following table gives the general Statistics of the Schools of the Island which fall under the three Classes into which the Schools of the country are divided in the Population Returns:—

	Schools.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
CLASS I.				
Public Schools				
Supported by				
Endowments - -	6	212	187	399
Religious bodies -	43	2,530	1,929	4,459
Others - - -	6	225	213	438
Workhouse School -	1	83	55	138
CLASS II.				
Grammar School -	1	38	—	38
Endowed Schools -	5	174	187	361
CLASS III.				
DENOMINATIONAL.				
<i>Church of England.</i>				
National - - -	13	1,081	817	1,898
Others - - -	22	713	698	1,411
<i>Independents.</i>				
British - - -	1	31	57	88
Others - - -	1	60	48	108
Rom. Catholic - -	1	32	30	62
UNDENOMINATIONAL.				
British - - -	4	579	231	810
Others - - -	1	34	48	82
Undefined - - -	6	225	213	438

The Statistics of the Sunday Schools, as given in the same tables, are as follows:—

	On the Books.			Total.
	Schools.	Boys.	Girls.	
Church of England -	41	1,804	1,693	3,497
Independents - -	17	777	781	1,558
Baptists - - -	7	204	191	395
Unitarians - -	1	43	62	105
Wesleyan Methodists -	19	739	699	1,438
Primitive Methodists	1	40	37	77
Bible Christians - -	11	288	261	549
Undefined - - -	4	82	125	207
Total - - -	101	3,977	3,849	7,826

CHAPTER IV.

ANTIQUITIES & ARCHITECTURE.

Primeval Antiquities: Long Stone—Sepulchral Mounds—Roman Antiquities: Carisbrook Villa—Coins—Pottery—Saxon Remains: Barrows—Cemetery on Chessel Down—Architectural Remains: Carisbrook Castle—Quarr Abbey—Churches: Norman, Early English, Decorated, Perpendicular—Brasses—Slabs—Monuments—Domestic Architecture: Carisbrook—Swainston—Woolverton—Chale—Jacobean Manor-Houses—Modern Mansions and Villas—Cottages.

THE Archæologist will not find the Isle of Wight a very fertile field for his researches.

The *Long Stone*, probably a boundary pillar, on the side of the hill above Mottistone, may be considered a relic of the earliest Celtic inhabitants of the island, of whom other traces are to be found in the singular pits and hollows in the valleys under Roughborough and Gallibury Downs (between Carisbrook and Shorwell), which are supposed to indicate the site of an ancient British village.

The crest of most of the downs is studded with funereal mounds, of which not a few are doubtless the places of sepulture of the original inhabitants of the island. The largest of these is the "Black Barrow," an isolated colossal mound on a natural ridge at the foot of Mottistone Down. The tumuli which stand out so conspicuously on the ridge of Shalcombe Down are traditionally reported to cover the remains of Arvald, King of Wight, his son and brother, slain in battle by Ceadwalla, A.D. 678. Many of these earlier tumuli were opened at a time when an ignorant curiosity was the only motive for such investigations, and their contents dispersed: they generally contained little more than the bones and ashes of the dead and the urn in which they were contained; examples of which from the barrows of Shalcombe, Wroxall, and Asheys Downs, together with Celts of stone and bronze, are to be seen in the Museums of Ryde and Newport.

Of its Roman conquerors the Isle of Wight had till lately presented but indistinct traces, though, from the number of Roman coins which had been found, it was certain that their power must have extended to most parts of the island.

The recent discovery of the villa at Carisbrook, with its fine mosaic pavement, bath, hypocausts, and other relics of the domestic architecture of the masters of the world, supply an evidence of their occupation which was long wanted, and adds an object of unusual interest to the former attractions of the island.

At *Clatterford*, near Carisbrook, massy foundations of masonry mark a Roman settlement; fragments of Roman pottery brought to light by recent slips in the cliffs at *Barnes*, near Brighstone, seem to prove that there was a manufacture of fictile ware at that spot; and at *Morton*, to the south of Brading, fragments of tile and coins bear witness to the presence of the same people. A road which may with probability be assigned to the Romans is still to be traced from Clatterford towards Brighstone, over Bowcombe Down, on which is a Roman Cemetery, which was explored in 1854, when eleven barrows were opened. Roman sepulchral urns have also been discovered at Bonchurch.

Of the Saxons, or rather Jutes, the companions of Stuf and Wihtgar, and their descendants, the tumuli that have been opened on *Chessel Down* and elsewhere have furnished many interesting memorials. The ornaments and other articles discovered were such as to indicate a state of considerable wealth and refinement: gold and silver rings, silver spoons, silver and gilt bronze fibulæ, strings of amber beads, a crystal ball of dark colour, buckets of bronze and wood with silver rims, together with swords and spear-heads, and other objects, of which an interesting account may be seen in the first Number of Mr. George Hilliers' "*History of the Isle of Wight*."

Carisbrook Castle is the only specimen of military architecture that merits notice; the other forts being merely blockhouses erected by Henry VIII. or of even later construction.

The Religious Houses have entirely disappeared, with the exception of some rough walls in the farm buildings at Carisbrook, and a few small but interesting remains of the *Abbey of Quarr*.

The Churches.

The Churches, though often picturesque, do not exhibit much good architecture. Norman work is rare, nor, with the exception of small rude buildings (*e.g.* the old church at Bonchurch), have we any complete buildings in the style. The churches of Shalfleet, Wootton, Northwood, and Yaverland have Norman doorways; and the last named has a rich chancel arch, and Shalfleet a tower of the same style, traces of which appear at Arreton and Whitwell, and have been only recently swept away at Calbourne. Two of the largest churches, those of Brading and Carisbrook, with the former church of Newport and that of Freshwater, are or were examples of Transition-Norman work, but rude and destitute of ornament. The best work in the island is the late E. English of the time of Henry III. or Edward I., of which we see excellent specimens in the chancels at Calbourne, Shalfleet, and Arreton. The Decorated churches, such as Shorwell, Brighstone, &c., are low and heavy, and their workmanship very coarse; a remark equally applying to those of Perpendicular date. There is little good window tracery in the island. A very usual ground plan is that of two gabled aisles, almost or quite equal in height and breadth, running from west to east, with little or no constructional distinction between the nave and the chancel, with a square tower to the west. Very frequently the chancel arch is wanting, as at Godshill, Shorwell, Kingston, Chale, Wootton, and Shanklin. The towers, when present, are mostly square and plain, of no great elevation; that of Carisbrook is a stately structure, recalling the magnificent edifices of Somersetshire; after it rank those of Chale, Gatcombe, and Godshill, all of the same date and very probably by the same architect. Shorwell, Brading, and Niton have stone spires.

Freshwater has the only rood-screen in the whole island, and there are hardly any remains of ancient woodwork; Arreton and Gatcombe preserve some fragments. The Fonts are of no peculiar interest or beauty.

The Sepulchral memorials are but few. The Churches of Calbourne, Shorwell, Arreton, and Kingston contain *brasses*, and in Freshwater are the matrices of two very fine ones; at Brading and Gatcombe are *wooden effigies* which deserve notice; at Carisbrook and Brading are incised slabs, the latter a remarkably beautiful specimen of this somewhat rare kind of memorial. The monument of Sir John and Lady Leigh at Godshill is a good example of a canopied tomb with fine alabaster effigies of the time of Henry VIII. The same church has some Jacobean tombs to the Worsley family which deserve notice. There is a series of quaint monuments to the Leighs, in the bad taste of the same period, at Shorwell: of the same style are the Wadham monument at Carisbrook, and that to Sir E. Horsey at Newport.

Domestic Architecture.

The domestic portions of the Castle of Carisbrook are the most important specimens: though subjected to barbarous treatment in the last two centuries, and to a recent repair which cannot altogether be commended, there are many fragments of high interest from the time of Henry II. downwards. The house at *Swainston*, though principally modern, has a small gabled chapel of E. English date, and other fragments of the Manor-House of the Bishops of Winchester. The small ruined house near St. Lawrence, commonly called *Woolverton Chapel*, is a singularly valuable E. English relic. The manor-house at *Chale* retains its hall, though now divided by floorings and separated into apartments, and scarcely to be remarked save by a good window in the north gable. As we descend later we find more specimens both of the house and cottage architecture of our forefathers, constituting, with the high pitched gables and mullioned windows built of the greystone of the country, and encrusted with moss and

powdery lichens, some of the greatest ornaments of the rural districts of the island.

The principal of these are *North Court* (the only one retaining its old rank), *West Court*, and *Woolverton*, all in Shorwell; *Stenbury*, between Whitwell and Godshill; *Mottistone*, *Yaverland*, *Arreton*, *Kingston*, *Sheat* (in Gatcombe), and *Barton*. *Knighton*, a noble old mansion, finer than any above named, was entirely pulled down about fifty years since. Nearly if not quite all of these belong to the same period — the close of the reign of Elizabeth or the commencement of that of James I., when the Isle of Wight was beginning to recover from its deep depression, and the inhabitants were at last beginning to taste the blessings of quiet from fear of foreign invaders.

Modern Mansions.

Of the principal mansions of modern date, *Nunwell*, the seat of Sir H. Oglander, *Swainston*, of Sir J. Simeon, *Westover*, of the Hon. W. A'court Holmes; the *Priory* at St. Helen's; *Appley* and *St. John's* at Ryde, and *Gatcombe House*, are comfortable buildings in the style of the last century, but call for no special remark. *Appuldurcombe*, where the Worsleys long reigned almost like petty sovereigns, is a heavy Corinthian pile not devoid of stateliness; *Northwood Park* (G. H. Ward), is a fine Palladian structure; *Steephill Castle* (A. Hambrough, Esq.), *St. Clair*, near Ryde (Hon. Colonel Harcourt), and *East Cowes Castle*, are specimens of the castellated Gothic in vogue thirty years since. *Appley Towers* (G. Young, Esq.), is in a better style of domestic Gothic; *Norris Castle* is an attempt at a reproduction of a mediæval castle, which, though effective at a distance, does not bear close examination. *Osborne* exhibits a greater desire to secure internal convenience than external display, but, without any striking features, it is a pile of considerable grandeur.

The Isle of Wight used to be famed for the beauty of its "Cottages of Gentility," but nearly all have now given place to more pretentious buildings, and few remain. *Puckaster*, *Mirables*, *Binstead*, and the cottages of *Shanklin* are

examples of the species. The neighbourhood of Ryde, East and West Cowes, Shanklin, Bonchurch, Ventnor, Niton, and Freshwater abounds with mansions and villas, usually surrounded with lovely grounds and displaying refined taste, but seldom deserving much commendation for their architecture. Those of Sir A. Clifford at Ryde, Miss Sheddon at Cowes, and Admiral Swinburne at Bonchurch, deserve special mention.

CHAPTER V.

HISTORY.

Early History — Lords of the Island. — Invasions — Defences —
Condition of the People — Royal Visits — Religion.

Early History.

THE first indistinct appearance of the Isle of Wight through the mists of dawning history, connects it with the obscure details of the tin trade. Diodorus Siculus mentions an island called "Ictis," divided from the mainland of Britain by a strait which at low water could be crossed by carts, to which the Cornish merchants conveyed their tin, which was then purchased by the Greek traders, conveyed to the shore of Gaul, and finally brought by a journey of thirty days to the mouths of the Rhone. Camden and Whittaker, in old times, and Lappenberg of the present day, are inclined to identify "Ictis" with "Vectis" or "Wight;" Borlase, Rawlinson, and others, with more probability hold that in those days of imperfect geographical knowledge, when Pliny placed *Vectis* between England and Ireland, Diodorus confounded the Isle of Wight with St. Michael's Mount in Cornwall, to which the description is far more appropriate.

However this may be, and whatever may have been the original meaning of the word, there is no doubt that "Ικτῖς of the Greeks, "Vectis" or "Vecta" of the Romans,

are classical forms of the same Celtic root which appears in a Saxon form as Wiht, Whit, or Wight. Camden, following Nennius, derives it from a British word "Guith," which is said to signify "division," thus indicating the severance of the island from the mainland at some remote period.

The original settlers of the Isle of Wight are probably to be found among the *Celts*, who came over in successive swarms from the coasts of Gaul to those of Britain, in their turn expelled by the Belgic colonists, by whom the southern part of our island was peopled in the days of Cæsar.

The Isle of Wight emerges from its primeval obscurity a few years later than the rest of Britain. It was brought under the Roman yoke by Vespasian, acting as general of the forces of the pusillanimous Claudius, A.D. 43, and marks of its occupation by the conquerors of the world appear in the coins, urns, and other relics discovered in various parts of the island, and, especially, in those lately brought to light at Carisbrook.

Its name appears again in Roman story, A.D. 296, when the fleet of Allectus, the murderer and successor of Carausius, stationed off the Wight to intercept the avenging squadron of Constantius Chlorus, had its vigilance baffled in a dense fog.

The Romans held possession of the island for 400 years: on their departure it remained for a time under its own rude chieftains, until the Saxons Kerdic and Kynric united it to the kingdom of Wessex, A.D. 530, killing many men at "Wiht-garas-byrg," the modern Carisbrook, and making themselves masters of the whole. On Kerdic's death in 534 the island was given to his nephews Stuf and Wihtgar, who made a fresh slaughter of the few of the natives who had escaped the former massacre on the same spot, and replenished it with their Jutish followers. Of their lineage came Oslac, or Aslaug, King Alfred's maternal grandfather. Wihtgar died B.C. 544, and was buried at Carisbrook.

In 661 the island was devastated by Wulphere, son of Penda, king of the Mercians (whose name is preserved in the several "Woolvertons" = "Wulphere's Town," scattered over its area), who severed it from Wessex, to which,

though governed by its Jutish princes, it had been tributary, and ceded it to Adelwach (Ethelwold), King of Sussex, whose baptismal sponsor he had been.

It was again reunited to Wessex by Ceadwalla (A.D. 686), who, emerging from his concealment in the forests of Chiltern and Anderida, made himself master of Wessex and Sussex, killing Adelwach in battle, and finally subjugated the Isle of Wight, to which he was the means of introducing the blessings of Christianity, having granted the fourth part to Wilfrid of York, then Bishop of Selsey. Bede relates that two young sons of Arvald the Jutish king, who with his elder son had fallen in battle with Ceadwalla and was buried on Shalcombe Down, fled to the coast of Hampshire, and took refuge at Stoneham (ad Lapidem) near Southampton, where they were discovered and given up to the conqueror, who had retired thither to be healed of his wounds. They were condemned to instant death, but Cynebert, Abbott of Reodford (Redbridge), obtained suspension of the sentence until he had instructed and baptized the lads, who then "joyfully underwent the temporal death through which they did not doubt that they were to pass to the life of the soul, which is everlasting."

The island appears again to have shaken off the yoke of Wessex, and maintained its independence till the reign of Alfred, when the line of Jutish sovereigns expired in Ethelbert, son of Astulf, and the people placed themselves and their land voluntarily under Edward the Elder, Alfred's son and successor, and continued to be held as a portion of the realm of England till the Norman Conquest.

Lords of the Island.

Fitz-Osborne — Roger de Breteuil — The De Redvers — Isabella de Fortibus — Sale of the Lordship — Lords in the 13th and 14th Centuries — Captains and Governors.

William the Conqueror granted the Isle of Wight as an independent lordship to his kinsman William Fitz-Osborne, Earl of Hereford and Grand Seneschal of Normandy, to whose energy and determination he was in no small degree indebted for the success of his enterprise. Fitz-Osborne

reduced the island and confiscated the property of the Jutish and Saxon possessors, with the exception of some few who had been officers of Edward the Confessor, liberally rewarding his followers with their lands. On the Abbey of Lyra, or Lire, in the diocese of Evreux, founded by him A.D. 1045, he bestowed his Priory of Carisbrook, and six of the parish churches of the island, with their tithes, viz. Arreton, Freshwater, Godshill, Newchurch, Niton, and Whippingham. On his death in battle in 1071 he was succeeded in his English possessions by his second son, Roger de Breteuil, Earl of Hereford, who having joined with Raoul le Gael, Earl of Norfolk, in a feeble rebellion, the lordship of the island and his other property escheated to the Crown.

The lordship was again granted by Henry I. to his adherent Richard de Ripariis or de Redvers, Earl of Devon (A.D. 1102), who had married Adeliza, sister of the attainted Fitz-Osborne, and it remained in his lineal descendants through a long series of De Redvers and De Vernons, until the reign of Edward I., when Isabella de Fortibus, Countess of Albemarle, and Lady of the Wight, who had survived all her children and near relations, sold it on her deathbed to that monarch for 6000 marks, A.D. 1293.

The "Lords of the Wight" were independent of the crown as far as their lordship was concerned, and exercised the rights of a sovereign within their tiny realm. They resided at the castle of Carisbrook, which Baldwin the First endeavoured ineffectually to hold for the Empress Maud against the forces of King Stephen. (See page 69.)

From the period of the sale the Isle of Wight has belonged uninterruptedly to the sovereigns of England, for though (*circa* 1445) the fatuous Henry VI. conferred the title of "King of Wight" on Henry Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and in a ridiculous mockery of a coronation placed the crown on the head of his favourite with his own hands, he neither did nor could convey any regal power, and the empty title died with its possessor.

Edward the First and his two successors reserved the

title of "lord of the island" to themselves, governing by "custodes" or "wardens," who were often changed, the office being not unfrequently in commission. Among them occur Piers Gaveston, the favourite of Edward II., and Edward III., when Earl of Cornwall.

On the accession of Richard II. the lordship was again granted to a subject, William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury; and from this period till the final cessation of the office in the reign of Henry VII., the roll of "Lords of the Wight" contains the names of some of the highest persons in the realm. Edmund, Earl of Rutland, and Duke of York (eldest son of Edmund Langley, Duke of York), who was smothered in the mud on the field of Agincourt, 1396—1415; his widow, Philippa, Duchess of York, 1415—1439; "the Good Duke Humphrey" of Gloucester, 1439—1449; Richard, Duke of York, father of Edward IV., 1449—1453; Edmund, Duke of Somerset, uncle of the "Lady Margaret," mother of Henry VII., 1453—1455; his son Henry, Duke of Somerset, 1455—1464; Lord Scales, brother of Elizabeth Woodville, Edward IV.'s queen, 1464—1466; his son Lord Rivers, 1466—1483; and finally his brother, Sir Edward Woodville, 1483—1488.

On the disastrous termination of Sir Edward Woodville's rash expedition to Brittany, the title ceased; and the Crown, sensible of the importance of the office, never again bestowed it upon a subject. The government of the island became a mere military appointment, and the "Captain," or "Governor," as he was afterwards styled, was answerable to the sovereign for the due discharge of his duties. The importance of the office gradually diminished; until, in 1789, the appointment of the captains of the castles of Cowes, Sandown, and Yarmouth was taken by the Crown into its own hands, the Governor was deprived of all real power, and it became a mere lucrative sinecure. On the death of Lord Malmesbury in 1841 the salary (about 1,300*l.*) ceased to be attached to the office, and it is now only an honorary dignity. The present governor, Viscount Eversley, succeeded Lord Heytesbury in 1857.

Invasions.

Danes — Earl Godwin — Tostig — French repelled at St. Helen's —
 Devastate the Island in 1377 — Raise the Siege of Carisbrook —
 Repelled, 1404, 1417 — Stow's Tale — Woodville's Expedition —
 D'Annebault's Armada — Spanish Armada — Later Alarms.

The history of the Isle of Wight is little more than a record of the various invasions to which, from the earliest times, its exposed position has rendered it subject.

In 787 the island was surprised by the Danes, who designed to make it a stronghold to which they might retire with the spoils collected from the English coast: they were unable to make an effectual lodgment; nor do we hear any more of their inroads till 897, when a fleet of six ships, which after plundering the Isle of Wight had retired to the coast of Devonshire, were pursued and taken by Alfred. But all Anglo-Saxon kings were not Alfreds: about a hundred years later the weak purposeless hands of Ethelred, aptly surnamed "the Unready," held the sceptre, and the Isle of Wight shared to the full the miseries of his disastrous reign. In 981 the Danish Raven was seen floating in the Southampton Water, the city was plundered, and its inhabitants carried off to slavery; the Isle of Wight affording the marauders a secure refuge, to which they retired with their booty, and where they long remained.

In 998 the island appears to have been entirely in their power, and they returned hither again and again with fire and sword, destroying in 1003 the town of Waltheam—identified with some probability with Werror, on the west shore of the Medina estuary—and other villages, and in 1048 it again served as a harbour for the Danish pirates who had devastated Sandwich.

On the triumphant return of Earl Godwin from Flanders he was met on the shores of the Isle of Wight by his sons Harold and Leofwin, who had brought a considerable force from Ireland; here, as all along the coast, he was received with joy, and many of its inhabitants joined Harold's standard.

Shortly after Harold's accession, his brother Tostig, with

the aid of William of Normandy, made a descent on the island, but was driven off by his brother's superior force.

The iron hand of the Conqueror and his immediate successors protected while it crushed their subjects, and more than two centuries elapse without any record of the inroad of a foreign foe.

In 1295 a French descent on the English coast was apprehended, and active measures were taken by Edward I. for the protection of the Isle of Wight in case of an attack. This alarm blew over; but fifty years later, when the claims of Edward III. to the French crown had kindled the spirit of animosity between the two nations, the exposed position of the island rendered it subject to frequent forays from their warlike neighbours; in one of which, A.D. 1340, they landed at St. Helen's Point, but were routed by the islanders, under the command of Sir Theobald Russel of Yaverland. (Route 42.)

On the accession of Richard II., A.D. 1377, the French were not slow to take advantage of the infancy of the new sovereign and the feeble counsels of his guardians, and before he had been a month on the throne gathered a formidable fleet, and insulted and plundered the whole southern coast. No part suffered so severely as the Isle of Wight, which they ravaged in August, burning to the ground the towns of Newport, Francheville (Newtown), and Yarmouth, and pillaging the defenceless inhabitants. Carisbrook was successfully defended by Sir Hugh Tyrrel, and they here received an unexpected check; a large body of their men coming down a narrow lane fell into an ambuscade and were cut off, and their commander was shot through a loophole by Peter de Heyno as he approached to reconnoitre. The siege was consequently raised, and the invaders retired, after they had exacted a contribution of 1000 marks from the impoverished inhabitants, and bound them by oath not to oppose them if they visited the island again.

No fresh invasion is recorded till 1404, when, according to Monstrelet, Waleran, Count of St. Pol, landed with 1600 men, including many of the nobility, and burnt "some miserable villages," and was proceeding to wider devasta-

tions, when he was induced to pause by “a sensible priest of the island,” who deluded him with promises of a rich ransom, until the arrival of troops from the mainland made him embark his men and sail away in haste.

About this time Stow tells us of a French fleet arriving off the island, and demanding a subsidy “in the name of King Richard and Queen Isabella.” They were answered that “Richard was long since dead, and his queen sent back to her native land; but if they had any desire to assert their demand by force of arms they had full leave to land without molestation and have six hours to refresh themselves, after which the islanders would meet them in the field.” So spirited an answer daunted the French commander, and he withdrew without accepting the challenge.

There was another descent A.D. 1417, when the marauders were attacked by the islanders as they were driving off their booty, and obliged to re-embark with the loss of their plunder and many of their men.

The next great calamity from which the island suffered, from which indeed it was slow in recovering, was not an invasion of French foes, but an ill-judged attempt on the part of the then “Lord,” Sir Edward Woodville, to carry terror into the ranks of their old enemies by actively espousing the cause of the Duke of Brittany against Charles VIII. Having, in opposition to the wishes of Henry VII., raised a force of 40 gentlemen and 400 yeomen of the island, picturesquely clad in white coats with broad red crosses, he joined the Duke’s forces—a portion of whom assumed the same dress to deceive the enemy into the belief that the English allies were more numerous than they really were—and engaged the King’s army under La Tremouille, July 20, 1488. La Tremouille gained a complete and sanguinary victory: Woodville’s whole force was cut to pieces with the exception of a boy, who carried the disastrous intelligence to his native isle. So overwhelming a calamity had never fallen on the Isle of Wight; all its noblest and best were swept away at one blow, and there was scarce a single family which had not personal cause for lamentation.

Though the island had suffered so severely from this

calamitous slaughter, it had recovered sufficiently in the next fifty years to take a vigorous part in repelling the great French Armada fitted out by Francis I. under the command of D'Annebault, in 1545, for the invasion of England. The whole story of the attempted occupation of the island, after the indecisive action with Lord Lisle at Spithead, is admirably told by Froude.* The landing of the various French detachments and their ill success has been already referred to under Seaview, p. 148, Bembridge, p. 169, Shanklin, p. 194, and Bonchurch, p. 215. The behaviour of the islanders showed the utmost vigour and determination, and there is no portion of its annals on which its sons can reflect with a more just pride.

In 1588, when the approach of the Spanish Armada was apprehended, the island was under the vigorous rule of Sir George Carey, by whose energetic measures the whole population was converted into an army; the counties of Sussex, Hants, Wilts, and even Berks charged with a supply of men for the protection of the island and boats for their transmission; and every preparation made to give the Spanish invaders as severe a handling as the French had received just forty years before. On the 25th of July the Armada was off the Isle of Wight, where several severe encounters took place between the English craft and the huge Spanish vessels, which were for a time becalmed under its shores, "each shooting off their whole sides, and not six score yards the one from the other, till at length the English so battered the Spanish high Turrets that they were forced once more to secure themselves in a rundell." †

At later periods, in the early part of the reign of Charles I., and in the memory of many still living, when Napoleon I. was threatening our shores, the dread of invasion prevailed very extensively, but it is more than 300 years since any foreign foe has set foot on the Isle of Wight. ‡

* History of England, iv. p. 426. † Speed's Chron. 1182.

‡ Walpole records that in 1782 the "Court of France was so elated by the capture of Lord Cornwallis' army and the total desperation of the Royal cause in America, that it was so insolent as to demand the cession of the Isle of Wight."—Last Journals, ii. 504.

Defences of the Island.

Camden's Character of the Inhabitants — Organisation for Defence — Beacons — Watches — Centones — Militia — Blockhouses — Artillery — Harquebuses — Volunteers in 1796 — Barracks — Signals — Coast Defences — Rifle Corps.

From a very early period the perpetual danger of hostile attacks compelled the inhabitants of the Isle of Wight to concert measures for the protection of their persons and property, by the establishment of watches, beacons, and an organised force, while the frequent occasions which presented themselves of testing their military qualities in repelling the invader produced no small amount of skill and courage, fully warranting Camden's commendation, that the "island is not so well fortified by its rocks and castles as by its inhabitants, who are naturally warlike and courageous, and, by the diligence and care of the Governor, have the methods of exercise so perfect, that, be the science that they are put upon what it will, they are master of it, for they shoot at a mark admirably, keep their ranks, march orderly. As occasion requires, they can close into a round or loosen their ranks: they can endure long marches and the fatigues of hot and dirty weather; in short, they are masters of whatever is requisite in a good soldier."

The first organised system of defence on record is in 1295, when Edward I., who had recently become possessed of the lordship, in apprehension of a French invasion, appointed the Bishop of Winchester and two others wardens of the isle, with instructions in case of descent.

From a list of the watches and beacons drawn up in 1325, we find that there were 13 stations in the East and 16 in the West Medina, attended day and night, to give immediate alarm of the approach of a hostile force.

In the reign of Edward III., when the frequent forays of the French rendered a strong defensive force essential, a force of 52 men-at-arms and 141 bowmen was raised by the lords of the principal manors, and vicars of the principal churches in the island, which was augmented by 73 men-at-arms supplied from the neighbouring counties on the

mainland, and 100 slingers and bowmen from the city of London. All absentees were ordered to return on pain of forfeiting their lands, nor was any person allowed to leave the island except on urgent business.

At a later period the island was divided into districts called *centones*, each commanded by a *centoneer*, usually a leading landholder, having under him a *vintoneer*, or lieutenant, and, in addition to his troop of from 100 to 200 men, a number of *hobblers*, watchmen mounted on *hobbies* or small horses, to ride from place to place and give notice of the enemy's approach. Nor was the island left to its own self defence: considering its importance to the safety of the adjoining counties, Hants and the adjoining shires were commanded to supply men for its defence. In 1570 forty-seven boats were in readiness to convey 1344 men, which had increased in 1574 to 3,382. The number of districts and companies of militia was gradually increased from 11 to 16; the force amounting in 1583 to 1856, and at the accession of Charles I. to near 2000 men. In 1638 the watches and beacons were 13 in the East and 12 in the West Medina.

Carisbrook Castle was the only fortress in the island until the latter part of the reign of Henry VIII., when, after the unsuccessful attempt of the French, its shores were strengthened by the erection of blockhouses at Cowes, Sandown, and Yarmouth, and Worsley's Tower, opposite Hurst Castle, which having been allowed to fall to decay, Carey's Sconce or Sharpnore Fort was erected in its room by the energetic governor whose name it bears, who also erected the outworks of Carisbrook Castle, and strengthened it so as to render it capable of standing a siege of 2000 men for two months.

In the reigns of Edward VI. and Elizabeth, the island was provided with a train of artillery; every parish providing a piece of brass ordnance of from one to six pounds*,

* In the Lansdowne MSS. (40. xxiv. a.) is a list of the centoneers, their posts, and forces in 1583, at which time the apprehensions of a Spanish invasion were assuming a definite shape. There were 10 centoneers, taking their names from Brook, Mottiston, Swainston, Kingston, Nunwell,

particular persons being charged with the duty of providing horses to draw them.* About the same period, A. D. 1530, the Captain of the Isle, Richard Worsley, received the Queen's instructions to promote the use of fire-arms, and an armourer was established at Carisbrook Castle to make harquebuses and keep them in order.

After the alarm of the Spanish Armada had passed away, the peace of the island was hardly broken by fear of foreign foes until a period almost within our own memories (1796), when the threatening demonstrations of the Emperor Napoleon again called forth the military spirit of the inhabitants; and a large body of volunteers, amounting to between 2000 and 3000, was raised for its protection against invasion. The Government at the same time took efficient measures for its defence. Barracks were erected for 300 men at Sandown, 150 at Colwell, 50 at Compton Cowleas, Grange Chine, Freshwater Down, and Niton, besides guard-houses at various points for 150 men. Artillery was planted along Sandown Bay (see p. 165), and the other more exposed parts of the coast; tar-barrels stood ready to be fired on the heights; and a chain of signals on the hills of Freshwater, Parkhurst, Wroxall, and Nunwell established a rapid communication with the fleet at Spithead. Older inhabitants still tell of frequent alarms, and the volunteers were more than once called out; but the shores of the island remained unmolested.

During the long period of peace through which we have been passing, the defences of the island were neglected; but the last three or four years have seen the erection of the Victoria and Albert batteries, between Freshwater and Yar-

Yaverland, Bembridge, Stenbury, and Woolverton, each charged with the defence of a certain portion of the coast, and commanding a force of from 70 to 243 men, amounting to upwards of 1800 in all. Each centone had its piece of ordnance and its beacon, with watchers and hobblers to raise an immediate alarm. In the same volume is a copy of Sir George Carey's minute instructions to the centoneers, filling 17 pages, and a list of the artillery furnished to the "Captain of the Isle of Wight" by royal warrant, Feb. 14, 1583.

* At the general muster, 1683, 20 of these guns were brought into Carisbrook Castle; the only one now remaining is that of Brading.

mouth, to defend the west entrance of the Solent, and a small fort at Freshwater Gate for the protection of the Bay. Rifle Corps have been generally established during the past year, and their ranks are still receiving constant augmentations.

Condition of the People.

Effects of Invasions — Isle depopulated — Newport, the Extortioner — Fearful Results of Woodville's Expedition — Ordinance of Henry VIII. — Queen Elizabeth's Commissioners—Sir G. Carey—Sir J. Oglander's Picture — Thriving State in the Civil Wars.

The state of the population of the Isle of Wight during the French wars was pitiable in the extreme — liable any day to be plundered of their goods by a foreign foe, all healthy industry was checked, the land fell out of cultivation, and all who cared for the safety of their persons and goods, and were able to do so, left the island for a safer domicile on the mainland. So greatly had the population diminished, that Edward III. was compelled to tempt persons to reside on its dangerous shores by the promise of exemption from the aids granted by Parliament; while all absentees were commanded to return on pain of forfeiture of their goods, and other stringent measures were taken to put a stop to the emigration to the coast of Hampshire.

The occupation of the island by the French in 1377 was the source of the greatest misery to the unfortunate inhabitants. Their towns were burnt, their cattle driven off, their property devastated, and their lives jeopardised; nor can we wonder that a petition to Parliament in the following year tells of "the greater part of the inhabitants" having "left the island, from the great damages received from the enemy's fleet."

A melancholy picture is presented of the condition of the people in petitions to the King and Parliament (28 Henry VI. A.D. 1449), which sets forth that within the last five years the population had been reduced from "10,000 fencible men and 30 knights and squires," to "scant 1200 fencible men, and knights never one, and squires no more but Harry Bruin,

squire of your household ;” which it attributes partly to pestilence and wars, but principally to the extortions of “one John Newport,” steward of the Duke of York, then “Lord of the Isle,” who so “peeled and oppressed the isle,” that “the country cursen daily that ever he came there,” and who, when removed from his office, continued to harass the island by frequent inroads and attacks by sea, “murdering the King’s people and his friends, and casting them out of their vessels into the sea.”

The low fortunes of the island received a still more terrible blow forty years later, in the disastrous issue of Woodville’s rash expedition to Brittany, which robbed it of all its bravest and best. An ordinance was immediately passed by Parliament, prohibiting any persons to hold lands, &c., of more than the annual value of ten marks, in order that the isle, which was then “desolate and not inhabited, but occupied with beasts and cattle,” might be again peopled and able to defend itself from an invader.*

Such an edict could have but little lasting effect, and the condition of the isle was so deplorable on the accession of Elizabeth, that a commission was appointed under Sir Francis Knollys to investigate the cause and suggest a remedy. The report, which exists in the State Paper Office, reveals a sad state of demoralisation and neglect, religious as well as social, which was attributed to the constant state of alarm in which the inhabitants lived from the danger of a hostile descent, and the removal of the staple from Dover to Calais.

The fortunes of the isle revived under the vigorous administration of the Queen’s maternal cousin, Sir George Carey ; and though his stern sense of justice and energetic measures provoked opposition and arrayed nearly all the island gentry against him, his best justification is to be found in the increased prosperity which was the result of his government—substantial proofs of which are still visible in every part of the island, in the solid stone manor-houses erected at this period.

Sir J. Oglander gives the following picture, perhaps too highly coloured by contrast, of the prosperity of the

* Froude, *Hist. of England*, i. 27.

island at this time. "Money," he says, "was as plenty in yeomen's purses as now in the best of the gentry, and all the gentry full of money and out of debt; the market full, commodities vending themselves at most high rates. If you had anything to sell you should not have needed to have looked for a chapman, for you would not almost ask but have. All things were exported and imported at your heart's desire, your tenants rich, and a bargain would not stand at any rate. Then it was *insula fortunata*, now *infortunata*. The Isle of Wight, since my memory, is infinitely undone through the attornies who have of late made the Isle their resort, and, by suits, undone the country. Peace and law hath beggared us all, so that, within my memory, many of the gentlemen and almost all the yeomen are undone."

The good old knight was too great a sufferer by the Civil Wars to make him a very impartial witness; and there is no doubt that the Isle of Wight enjoyed great prosperity during the unhappy dissensions between Charles I. and the Parliament. All attempts at a rising in the monarch's favour were immediately and effectually checked; and so great was the quiet maintained, that many resorted hither from neighbouring counties, and rents rose 5 per cent., falling again shortly after the Restoration.

For the last two centuries the island has kept an even tenor of gradually increasing prosperity, without any great or sudden alternations, and calling for no special remark.

Royal Visits.

Ethelred — Canute — William I. — John — Henry VII. — Henry VIII. — James I — Charles I. — Charles II. — James II. — Queen Victoria.

The first sovereign whose visit to the Isle of Wight is on record is "*Ethelred the Unready*," A.D. 1013, who with his queen, the Norman Emma, and their children, took shelter here from his Danish foes until he could safely retire to his brother-in-law's court at Rouen.

In 1022, the island was visited by *Canute*, perhaps at the time that he so sternly rebuked his flatterers on the neighbouring shores of the Southampton Water.

William the Conqueror, in 1082, surprised his ambitious half-brother Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, at Carisbrook, in the midst of the preparations he was secretly making for his journey to Rome, and having assembled his knights and nobles in the "Aula Regia," arrested the Pope — expectant with his own hand, and despatched him as a prisoner to Rouen. William was again in the island in 1087.

John visited Yarmouth in 1206, and again in 1214, when on his way to La Rochelle (see p. 317): but the picturesque story of his harbouring with rovers and pirates in the wooded recesses of "King's Quay," after signing Magna Charta, is a tale devoid of foundation.

We have no certain record of any of our subsequent sovereigns * having visited the island until we come to *Henry VII.*, who surveyed the whole of it, staying several days with his wife's cousin, Lord Woodville, and sleeping at the Manor-Houses of Nunwell, Wootton, and Brook, and at Newport in a house near the Bullring.

Henry VIII., accompanied by Lord Cromwell, came to the island in 1538 or 1539, and honoured his old favourite, Richard Worsley, with a visit at Appuldurcombe. His object was probably to enjoy his amusement of hawking, an order having lately been issued to the captain, to "have diligent regard that no man of no Degree or Condicion kill any Fesant or Partriche with Net, Engyn, or Hawke."

The pleasures of the chase brought *James I.* to the island in 1609, accompanied by his son Prince Charles, a boy of nine; they hunted in Parkhurst Forest and dined at Carisbrook.

Nine years later, 1618, *Charles* came alone, and saw a skirmish in the forest.

Charles' next visit to the island was a melancholy one, arriving at Cowes a virtual prisoner, Nov. 22nd, 1647, and proceeding the following day to his dungeon at Carisbrook. For an account of his detention in the castle, his removal

* In 1397 the Isle of Wight received a noble prisoner in the person of the Earl of Warwick, who had been condemned to death for complicity in the "Fitzalan Conspiracy," but spared on the petition of the Earl of Salisbury, and banished to the island. — FROISSART.

to Newport for the treaty, and his seizure by the army, the reader is referred to pp. 50-51 ; 71-78.

Charles II. honoured the Isle of Wight more than once with his royal presence. In 1665 he landed at St. Helen's, and passed through Brading to Sandown Fort; and in 1671, disembarking at Gurnet Bay, proceeded to Yarmouth to visit Sir R. Holmes: his last arrival on its shores was involuntary, being driven on shore at Puckaster in a violent storm in 1675, when he again visited his favourite at Yarmouth.

In the spring of 1669, when there were some hopes of an heir to the crown, *Catherine of Braganza* had it in contemplation to visit the Isle of Wight, and an order was issued to the Master of His Majesty's Tents to supply four for her reception.

James II. visited Carisbrook when Duke of York, but it is doubtful whether any English sovereign set foot in the Isle of Wight from Charles II. to her present Most Gracious Majesty, whose name will be in all after ages inseparably connected with the fair isle, in which from time to time she seeks a short respite from the cares of empire.

History of Religion.

Introduction of Christianity — Eappa — Wilfred — Grants of Ina and Egbert — Churches in Domesday Survey — Division of Parishes — Dean — Suffragan Bishops — Monastic Foundations — Feuds at Godshill and Arreton — Low State after the Reformation — Ejected Clergy — Silenced Ministers — Modern State.

The first attempt to introduce Christianity into the Isle of Wight was made by the Mercian Wulfhere, A.D. 661, by whose command a priest, named Eappa, was sent to baptize the Pagan Jutes.

Eappa would seem to have met with but little success, for when Ceadwalla conquered the island in 686, he found the natives so entirely given up to idolatry, that though himself not yet baptized, he resolved to extirpate the whole, and plant the land afresh with Christians. However, having bound himself by a vow, that if successful in his enterprise he would dedicate a fourth part to God, he bestowed 300 families on Wilfrid of York, then Bishop of

Selsey, probably putting the rest to the sword. Wilfrid immediately took measures for the evangelisation of his new possession, and tradition fixes the site of the baptism of the Jutes at Brading, where the first Christian church in the island was erected, probably on ground previously occupied by a heathen temple. After having committed the spiritual charge of his new converts to his nephew Beornwin, and a priest named Hildila, who erected St. Helen's Church, he left the island, and was soon reinstated as Archbishop of York.

We know but little of the progress of Christianity in the island: King Ina, in 683, is said to have given land in Yaverland and Brading to the Bishop of Winchester, and his example was followed by Egbert, who, in 826 and 838, bestowed on the same see lands at Calbourne and Shalfleet, "*propriæ hæreditatis*." The only churches named in the Domesday record are those of Arreton, Calbourne, Shalfleet, and Bowcombe or Carisbrook, with the Chapel of St. Nicholas; but those of Freshwater, Godshill, Newchurch, Niton, and Whippingham, which, together with Arreton, were bestowed by Fitz-Osborne on his recently founded Abbey of Lire, were certainly in existence, together with those of Brading and St. Helen's.

As time went on, the larger parishes were divided: Northwood, Chale, Shorwell, and probably Gatcombe, being taken out of Carisbrook; Yaverland, Shanklin, and Bonchurch out of Brading; Whitwell out of Godshill; Brighstone out of Calbourne; and various chapels were erected by the lords of the manor, for the convenience of themselves and their tenants; some of which, as Wootton, Shanklin, Kingston, and Brook, became eventually parish churches, others passed away with the Reformation.

In the 14th century the island was under the supervision of a dean, and William of Wykeham placed a suffragan bishop over it, thus anticipating the intentions of Henry VIII., which appear never to have been carried into effect.

The only independent monastic foundation was the Cistercian house of *Quarr*, erected A.D. 1135 by Baldwin de Redvers, but several of the large French abbeys had cells or priories. The Priory of *Carisbrook*, founded by Fitz-Osborne

and granted to the Benedictines of Lire ; *Appuldurcombe*, a cell of Monteburg ; *St. Cross*, near Newport, a cell of the Cistercian Abbey of Tiron ; and *St. Helen's*, belonging to some unknown Cluniac foundation. The only house for female recluses was *Ashey*, a cell of the nunnery of Wherwell, near Andover. There was an oratory at *Barton*, founded in 1282, and a *Fraternity of St. John the Baptist* was established at Northwood, shortly before the dissolution. A large amount of the best land in the island was held by various religious foundations, and by Christchurch Twynham, and Laycock Priors.

The long-standing feud between the "regular" and "secular clergy," gave rise to serious disturbances at the beginning of the 14th century. In 1307, the monks held the church of Godshill, by force of arms, against the clerk collated by Bishop Woodlock, who had claimed the presentation by lapse ; and the following year a similar scene was enacted at Arreton, and a number of those who had resisted the bishop's mandates were excommunicated "with bell, book, and candle," the sentence being published in every church in the island.

The immediate consequence of the Reformation was a state of sad demoralisation and negligence. The commissioners appointed by Queen Elizabeth report that in many parishes there was no resident minister at all. Yarmouth could not support a priest ; Whippingham and Wootton were served by laymen who only read the Epistles and Gospels. Binstead was under the care of a non-resident French curate ; at St. Helen's a priest had lately been hired to christen and bury, before which "the parishioners were fain to bury themselves." In consequence of these and similar irregularities Archbishop Parker undertook, in 1575, a metropolitanical visitation* of the diocese of Winchester, and in particular of the Isle of Wight, where he made use of such methods of severity as made him talked about all over the country. The Earl of Leicester reporting these proceedings to the Queen,

* Neal says, "Hist. of Puritans," i. 225, "this island was a place of resort for foreign Protestants and seafaring men of all countries, which occasioned the habits and ceremonies, viz., cap, tippet, surplice, and waferbread, not to be so strictly observed as in other places."

she ordered that matters should return to their former channel, and on Parker's coming to court she upbraided the archbishop with a vehemence which appears to have hastened his decease.

Sir John Dingley, writing to the Earl of Pembroke, governor of the island in 1642, characterises the clergy as "loose and idle livers who neglect their charge."

During the usurped power of the Puritans, eight of the clergy were ejected from their livings; viz., from Bonchurch, Brading, Calbourne, Freshwater, Gatcombe, Godshill, St. Lawrence, and Yaverland.

Reprisals were taken in 1660, when "the black Bartholomew Act" silenced so many of the most pious and laborious ministers of the land. The intruding clergy at Calbourne (Buckler, one of Cromwell's chaplains), Freshwater, Godshill, St. Lawrence, and Yaverland, were driven from their cures, as well as the incumbents of Newport, Yarmouth, and West Cowes. Newnham, of St. Lawrence, though silenced, continued to preach in various places, but more particularly "to the church committed to his charge at Road, Bridge Court, and Stroud Green," where on Sunday, Nov. 4, 1688, when the Dutch armament conveying William of Orange to Torbay was sailing past the shores of the island, he "set aside the subject he intended to have preached on, and gave his people a discourse suited to such a circumstance of Providence." *

The Isle of Wight shared to the full in the apathy and negligence which prevailed in the Church of England during the eighteenth century, and, as a natural consequence, dissent gained a hold among its inhabitants, which it is slow to relinquish. The "Bible Christians," or "Bryanites," were peculiarly active in gathering congregations in the outlying hamlets at a distance from their parish churches. A better day has long since dawned, and active measures have been taken for the division of the larger parishes, and besides those at East and West Cowes, Ryde, and Ventnor, churches have been built at Newtown, Bembridge, Sea View, Sandown, and Haven Street.

* Calamy's Memorial.

CHAPTER VI.

GEOLOGY.

General Remarks — Manuals — General Features — Post-eocene Deposits — Fluvio-marine or Eocene — Hempstead Beds — Bembridge Beds — Osborne and St. Helen's Beds — Headon Beds — Bagshot Beds — Bognor Beds — Plastic Clay — Cretaceous System — Upper Chalk — Lower Chalk — Chalk Marls — Upper Greensand — Gault — Lower Greensand — Wealden.

CELEBRATED as the Isle of Wight has long been for the beauty of its scenery and the salubrity of its climate, its geological fame, though of later date, is even more widely spread, and no less justly deserved. Sir William Jardine says, with truth*, that there is "no finer geological field in the world," while the late President of the Geological Society, Mr. Hopkins, recommends it to the "young observer," as the best "of all particular localities," adding, "it might have been cut out by Nature for a geological model illustrative of the phenomena of stratification."†

High as this commendation is, it is by no means exaggerated. There is probably hardly any spot on the face of the globe where, within so limited an area, so many and such varied formations are displayed, and that under circumstances so favourable for their examination. Many of the strata are highly fossiliferous, and the animal remains they enshrine are of exceeding beauty and interest; while the majority of them are so readily to be obtained, that an active collector, with a little previous local knowledge, may in a week secure a well-stored cabinet of the most characteristic species.

Hardly any district of England has been so minutely investigated and ably illustrated by geologists of the first eminence. The letters of Mr. Webster, which form part of Sir Henry Englefield's splendid quarto, are the earliest publication on the subject; and, considering the date of his researches (1811—1813), when it was still possible to speak of "that part of natural science *lately called geology*," are the most surprising from "the fulness and accuracy of the

* Memoirs of Strickland, p. xxiii. † Cambridge Essays, 1857, p. 185.

majority of his statements.” * Professor Webster’s investigations were followed by those of Professor Sedgwick, in 1822, Mr. Prestwich in 1839—47, M. Dumont in 1851, M. Hebert in 1852, as well as by those of Captain Ibbetson and the lamented Professor Edward Forbes.

Manuals.

No visitor to the Isle of Wight who takes any interest in geological researches, or who purposes to avail himself of his sojourn in so remarkable a field, to acquire some practical knowledge of one of the most charming pursuits of science, should fail to possess himself of the excellent popular manual of Dr. Mantell†, to which it will be well if he can add the memoirs of Professor E. Forbes on the “Tertiary Fluvio-marine Formation,” ‡ and Dr. Fitton on the Strata below the Chalk §, and the Atherfield Section ||. Dr. Martin’s admirable monograph on the Undercliff contains valuable details of the Upper and Lower Greensand formations, together with lists of the more remarkable fossils; the former of which strata has lately received additional illustration from Mr. Norman, in the pages of the “Geologist.” The geological map and sections of the island, published as part of the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom, are indispensable travelling companions. Stanford’s beautiful relief map may be studied at leisure, before and after the visit.

A glance at the map of the Isle of Wight will show that its irregular rhomboidal area is traversed from east to west by a range of downs, meeting the south-east coast at the Culvers, and the south-west coast at Freshwater (or Compton) Bay, forming as it were the backbone of the island, where, to adopt the language of Mr. Hopkins, “the strata with their fossil contents are so beautifully exhibited at different inclinations, varying from horizontality to verticality, that

* Forbes, p. 22.

† Bohn’s Scientific Library.

‡ Memoirs of Geological Survey : Longmans.

§ Annals of Philosophy, 1824.

|| Quart. Journ. of Geol. Soc., vol. iii. Aug. 1847.

no one can visit these places for the first time, with some previous knowledge of geological facts, without having the pleasure which their picturesque beauties are capable of affording much enhanced by a sense of their geological beauty." * A huge outlier of this system, separated from the central ridge by a broad valley of denudation occupied almost entirely by the Lower Greensand, invests the southern promontory between Shanklin and Blackgang. These downs consist of strata of Chalk and its accompanying formations, of "Upper Greensand" or Firestone, "Gault" or Blue Marl, and "Lower Greensand;" which having been originally deposited horizontally in the bed of a deep ocean, have been elevated by some mighty agency. The strata of the central ridge have been tilted so as to occupy a nearly vertical position; the change of direction being marked to the eye by the parallel courses of black flints, and siliceous veins, scoring the white cliff from top to bottom: those of the southern range repose in their primitive horizontality.

To the north of the chalk range we see an irregular triangular area, bisected by the Medina, extending from Alum Bay on the west to Whitecliff Bay on the east and to Cowes on the north, composed entirely of older tertiary strata corresponding to the "upper, middle, and lower Eocene" of Sir C. Lyell, including in a descending order the Hempstead, Bembridge, Osborne, Headon, Barton, Bracklesham, and Bagshot Series, based on the London Clay (or Bognor), and Plastic clay beds.

The ridge of vertical chalk is succeeded to the south by a parallel range of low hills, belonging to the "Lower Greensand" or "Neocomian" †, separated from it by a narrow valley of Gault. The same formation occupies nearly the whole of the tract between the two chalk ranges, and presents noble sections to the sea in the bays which the ceaseless eroding action of the waves has eaten out of the friable strata on both sides of the southern promontory.

A small portion of the southern triangular area is oc-

* Cambridge Essays, 1857, p. 185.

† So called from *Neocomie*, a Greek form of the name *Neufchâtel*, "where these strata are well developed, entering largely into the structure of the Jura Mountains."—*Lyell, Manual*, p. 257.

cupied by the freshwater or lacustrine beds of the "Wealden," the lowest formation of which any representatives appear in the Isle of Wight. The extent they occupy is very limited; emerging from under the Lower Greensand to the south-west of Atherfield, they appear on the shore as far as Compton, presenting sections of singular beauty and interest, and again at Sandown, between the Fort and Redcliff Bay, where, however, they are not so clear or well developed.

DIVISION I.

POST-EOCENE DEPOSITS.

Though the *Eocene* are the highest beds to be met with in the Isle of Wight, there being no strata that can be referred definitely to the *miocene* or *pliocene* epochs, there are in various parts superficial accumulations of drift, gravel, peaty beds, and other deposits of a late Tertiary Age which require notice.

They are classified by Forbes * as follows:—

I. Beds now forming, or of recent date, including the alluvial deposits of the valleys of the Medina, Yar, Wootton, &c.

II. Newer and lower gravel, clays, sands, &c., including (1.) the Elephant Gravel, which may be seen capping the chalk downs at Freshwater Gate. (2.) The sand and gravel of the combes on the south coast. (3.) The gravel beds of Bembridge, Foreland, and St. Helen's, consisting principally of chalk flints with occasional bands and seams of drift-sands. (4.) Beds of sands and peat underlying gravel on the south and west coast, containing in some instances carbonised hazel-nuts and the remains of beetles, mixed with matted fragments of twigs and branches of trees; the best example of which is to be seen on the eastern side of Compton Grange Chine to the west of Brook Point, and at the sea-level at Bembridge Point. (5.) "Subaërial and lacustrine beds," (*i.e.* beds formed on dry ground, or at the bottom of fresh-water ponds,) containing specimens of recent shells; appearing in the cliff section of Totland's Bay, and on the summit of Gore Cliff between Niton and

* Mem. of Geol. Surv. pp. 1—10.

Blackgang. (6.) Gravel in the valley of King's Quay. (7.) The brick earth of Wootton Creek.

III. Older and higher gravel, including (1.) The gravel and conglomerates along the chalk downs, of which the finest example occurs in the beds of red gravel and solid "breccia" which cap St. George's Down above Arreton. (2.) Gravel on the top of Headon Hill, at least 60 feet thick. (3.) Gravel-beds capping the hills to the north of the chalk, *e.g.* between Ryde and East Cowes, and between Ryde and St. Helen's.

The whole of these beds are unaffected by the undulations by which the older strata of the island have been elevated or depressed, and have therefore been deposited subsequently to the occurrence of the movements. •

DIVISION II.

TERTIARY, FLUVIO-MARINE OR EOCENE FORMATION.

Subdivision I.—*Hempstead Beds.*

The highest beds of this formation in the Isle of Wight are the *Hempstead* series, discovered in 1852 by the late Professor E. Forbes, until which time the beds of Headon Hill were supposed to form the highest members of the Eocene strata to be found in the island. The series, 170 feet thick, as seen in the Hempstead cliffs, may be divided into four groups. (1.) The *Corbula* beds, consisting of marine sands and clays, taking their name from a small fossil bivalve, *Corbula Pisum*, which with others is abundant in them. (2.) Freshwater and Estuary marls and carbonaceous clays. (3.) Middle Freshwater and Estuary fossiliferous marls and clays, with *Cypris* and impressions of plants, pyritiferous slabs filled with seeds, fish-scales, and beautifully preserved small univalves, and terminating in a ferruginous band of broken and entire shells, forming a distinct white line in the cliff. (4.) Lower Freshwater and Estuary marls. The bottom bed is carbonaceous, and called the "Black Band," abounding in fossils, fishes' vertebrae—leaves of gramineous plants—large flattened seed-vessels, and lumps of lignite.

Hempstead Hill lies about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the east of Yarmouth, between it and the Newtown Estuary. The strata are less known than most of the fossiliferous beds in the Isle of Wight, and the collector may expect a proportionably richer harvest. The existence of the same beds has been inferred in Parkhurst Forest, but they have yet to be discovered there.

Subdivision II. — *Bembridge Series*.

This is the largest in superficial extent, as well as the most constant in character, of all the tertiaries, consisting of marls, clays, and limestone, occupying nearly the whole of the northern area. "The agriculture of the northern division of the island is chiefly dependent on it, and much of the stone used for building is derived from its harder beds. In a scientific point of view it possesses very high interest, affording to the naturalist considerable information respecting the terrestrial *fauna* of our area during the later portion of the Eocene epoch." *

The series contains four subdivisions:— (1.) Upper Bembridge Marl; (2.) Lower Bembridge Marl; (3.) Bembridge Oyster Bed; (4.) Bembridge Limestone; comprising altogether a thickness of about 110 feet.

(1.) The first of these subdivisions, consisting of marls and laminated clays, is characterised by a slender spiral univalve, *Melania turritissima*. The best localities for observing it are Whitecliff Bay, the shore at Hempstead, and Thorness Bay.

(2.) In the second group, often separated from the first by a hard, thin, calcareous band, unfossiliferous mottled clays alternate with fossiliferous laminated clays and marls, in which remains of tortoises sometimes occur. Beautifully clear sections may be examined at Whitecliff and Hempstead, as well as at the entrance of Brading Harbour (a little seawards of St. Helen's Old Church Tower) and Gurnard Bay.

(3.) The third division, or "oyster bed," forms a narrow but *constant* band between the marls and the limestones.

* Forbes.

It abounds in oysters and other marine shells, evidencing the influx of salt-water during the period of its deposition at the bottom of the fresh-water lake in which the series was formed. It may be best examined below St. Helen's Tower, and in Whitecliff Bay.

(4.) The Bembridge Limestones, which, until Professor Forbes' researches, were confounded with those of Headon Hill, consist of cream-coloured limestone, alternating with shells and marls, including the building stones (some of which have been worked for centuries) of Binstead, Cowes, Gurnard Bay, Calbourne, Dodpits, and Sconce. It contains an immense number of large and very perfect casts of fresh-water shells, the shells themselves being sometimes preserved: fossil leaves of palm and other plants, microscopical seed-vessels of the *Chara*, and occasionally fruits and nuts. The bones and carapace of turtles have been obtained at Binstead, as well as bones of extinct Pachydermatous quadrupeds.

The best localities for examining this formation and obtaining its characteristic fossils are the quarries at Binstead and those at Dodpits, and others in the vicinity of Calbourne (especially above Street Place Farm to the north-east of New Bridge), and Sconce. The fossil shells from Calbourne are generally much more perfect than those from Binstead, but mammalian and reptile remains have not been discovered in that vicinity.

The most perfect sections of the whole Bembridge series are those along the shore below Hempstead Hill, proceeding westwards from the "ledge" where the limestone is exposed at spring-tides, and passing the successive beds cropping out at an angle of about 5° , "without the intervention of a single break, not even an inch of the section being obscured." "This section is of the greatest possible consequence, since it conducts us in the most perfect manner possible from the definite horizon of the Bembridge limestone into the strata belonging to the Hempstead series, and completes the succession of Eocene strata which in Colwell Bay we see as clearly exhibited, bed after bed, from the Bembridge limestone down to the sands at the base of

Headon Hill; and in Alum Bay, from those sands to the bottom of the plastic clay, not only are the strata clearly shown, but their fossils also are exquisitely preserved and exposed to view." *

Subdivision III.—*Osborne or St. Helen's Series.*

This group is of fresh and brackish water origin, very variable in mineral character and thickness; intermediate in character between the middle and upper eocene strata. The title of the "Osborne Series" was given to them by Professor Forbes in consequence of the royal domain being the only locality in the Isle of Wight where these beds occupy any superficial area, though excellent sections of them are seen in the cliffs between St. Helen's and Ryde, especially in the vicinity of Seaview. They include two divisions: (1.) the "St. Helen's Sands," and (2.) the "Nettlestone Grits," consisting, on the western side of the island (at Cliffend and Headon Hill), of about sixty feet of soft marls and shells, while between Ryde and St. Helen's they harden, and present some beds of excellent stone, much used for building, containing many shells, vertebræ of fish, and fragments of turtles.

Subdivision IV.—*Headon Series.*

This group may be divided into three sections: the "Upper, Middle, and Lower Headons"—formerly known as the "Upper Freshwater," "Marine," and "Lower Freshwater." Their thickness collectively is about 180 feet. They are best seen at Whitecliff Bay and at Headon Hill, to the north-east of Alum Bay, and the adjacent bays of Totlands and Colwell. The lower members of the same formation also appear on the other side of the Solent, at Hordwell Cliff near Lymington. They consist of fresh and brackish water and marine formations; the marine deposits being most developed in the middle beds, and in those most markedly in Whitecliff and Colwell Bays; in the latter are large banks of oysters many feet thick, with the valves in contact as when living, and numerous other marine shells.

* Forbes, pp. 63, 64.

The upper and lower series are traversed by strong bands of freshwater limestone, members of which form the reefs of "Warden and How Ledge" in Colwell Bay, thinning out and passing into sandy concretionary beds in Whitecliff Bay.

Numerous fossils are common to all the Headon beds, a profusion of which may be picked out of the soft cliffs in Totlands and Colwell Bays, or gathered on the sandy shore, having been washed out of the strata in which they were embedded; many of the shells in as perfect a state as if they had only just been cast up from the bed of the ocean. At Colwell Bay and at Headon Hill the superior beds have a very slight dip, but curve upwards as they approach the vertical strata in Alum Bay, just as is the case with the St. Helen's and Bembridge strata at Whitecliff Bay. The strata are in many places obscured by landslips and mud torrents, caused by the action of the land-springs on the soft marls; while, "from the incessant action of the sea at the base of Headon Hill, large masses of the upper beds are continually falling down, and the face of the cliff is generally in so ruinous a state that the true stratigraphical position of the deposits is seldom visible."*

Subdivision V.—*Upper, Middle, and Lower Bagshot.*

The Headon beds rest on yellow and white sands, which are the equivalents of the Upper Bagshot beds, of a thickness of 122 feet. These beds occur most markedly at the foot of Headon Hill, to the right of the path leading from the hotel to Alum Bay, where the white beds are extensively worked for the supply of the glass-houses of London and Bristol. A very good section of these strata is also to be seen in the hollow lane beyond Calbourne Mill on the road to Freshwater, exhibiting pink, white, and pale yellow sands. They show themselves also in a pit at the south-east corner of a wood by the side of the road from Arreton Down to Lynn Farm, where pure white glass-house sands, together with some of a yellow colour, rest with a sharp, well-defined parting on green Barton clay.

* Mantell, p. 110.

Middle Bagshot.

The members of this formation, including the strata known as the Barton and Bracklesham beds, occupy a considerable space on the shore of Alum Bay, immediately to the left of the Chine (which indeed cuts through the second of the Barton beds, consisting of pale yellow sandy clay), with a thickness of 300 and 111 feet respectively. The Barton series forms a succession of nearly vertical beds of dark clays, some of which abound in *lignite*, *corals*, *oysters*, *corbulars*, and other marine organisms, with layers of *Sep-taria*—locally known as cement-stones. The transition from the white sands of Headon Hill to these dark clays is well defined in Alum Bay; in Whitecliff Bay it is more gradual.

The Bracklesham beds, seen both in Alum and Whitecliff Bays, present layers of various-coloured sands and marls, some of which in the former locality show that richness and variety of hue for which it is so widely celebrated, which is more strikingly developed in the next formation.

Lower Bagshot.

It is this series which gives its marked character to Alum Bay, where it presents vertical sections of varied and brilliantly-coloured sands and clays, having a thickness of at least 700 feet. The whole of this series is of freshwater origin, and is unfossiliferous, so far as animal remains are concerned, but presents frequent bands of lignite and other vegetable matters; and one thin band of pipeclay towards its western extremity contains some fruits and seed-vessels, as well as beautifully delicate impressions of leaves.

At Whitecliff Bay this series is of much more limited extent, presenting a thickness of 100 feet of various shades of broad-striped yellow vertical sands, passing upwards into nearly white sands.

Subdivision VI.—*London Clay, or Bognor Beds.*

The brilliantly-coloured sands and clays are succeeded in Alum Bay by a group of marine beds of dark compact clay

or dark sand, about 195 feet thick, with bands of *Septaria* abounding in the *Ditrupe* and other marine shells, and sharks' teeth. These beds have not only been raised from a horizontal to a vertical position, but in some instances incline several degrees in the opposite direction.

At Whitecliff Bay the Bognor beds are about 300 feet thick, but the fossils are not so well preserved.

Subdivision VII.—*Plastic Clay.*

These beds, consisting of mottled clays without fossils, probably of freshwater origin, divided from the Bognor beds by a band of shingle or conglomerate of pebbles, are about 90 feet thick in Alum Bay, and 140 in Whitecliff Bay. Their prevailing colour, especially at Whitecliff Bay, is blood-red, intermixed with grey, blue, brown, and yellow.

A good section of these beds has recently been opened by the lowering of the road on the side of Ape's Down, between Swainston and Carisbrook: one side of the deep cutting presenting the chalk, and the other the dark brown or black beds of the Plastic and London clays.

DIVISION III.

CRETACEOUS SYSTEM.

Of Lyell's "upper cretaceous," we find (1.) upper chalk with flints; (2.) lower chalk without flints; (3.) chalk marl; (4.) upper greensand: (5.) gault, of the "lower cretaceous;" (6.) the "lower greensand or Neocomian;" and (7.) Wealden.

Subdivision I.—*Upper Chalk, with Flints.*

This well-known formation consists of white limestone disposed in strata, varying in thickness from a few inches to several feet, seamed with numerous parallel bands of flinty nodules, and in some places by *sheets* of flint between thin layers of chalk, which have probably been produced by jets of heated waters (such as those of the Geysers of Iceland), charged with siliceous matter. The chief point of

interest in connection with the chalk of the Isle of Wight, is the elevation of the whole cretaceous mass, together with the superincumbent strata, from horizontality to an almost vertical position. By the same tremendous agency, the nodules and plates of flint dispersed through the mass have been shattered into small fragments. By some convulsion subsequent to the introduction of the siliceous matter, the layers of chalk have been split by fissures and joints at right angles to the planes of stratification, dividing the entire mass into irregular rhomboidal segments.

Little attention has been paid to the chalk fossils of the Isle of Wight, as they can be studied with at least equal convenience in other places, where the strata peculiar to the island are not to be found; but those common to the formation are to be met with without difficulty, and the flints contain a rich variety of sponges, choanites, and other silicified zoophytes.

The special characteristics of this formation may be studied in the large pits opened for the use of the farmer and builder, which abound in the central range, *e.g.* at Brading, Arreton, Newport (on the side of Mountjoy), and Shalcombe, but the finest sections are presented in the noble cliffs at Culver, Compton, and Alum Bays, where the peculiarities of the strata are so strongly marked as to attract the attention of the most unobservant.

Subdivision II.—*Lower Chalk, without Flints.*

There is little to be said of this as distinct from the upper chalk: it is more yellowish in colour, harder in texture, and usually devoid of flints. The same fossils are to be found in it as in the superior stratum. It occupies an important position in the southern promontory of the island, capping the downs with horizontal beds, at once distinguished from those of the central ridge by the absence of the dark lines of flint. The best sections of it are to be seen at the Culvers, and in Compton Bay, as well as in the cliffs between Ventnor and Bonchurch, where, in consequence of the subsidence of the lower beds, it occupies a position many hundred feet below its original level.

Subdivision III.—*Chalk Marl.*

The chalk passes so gradually into this formation that no accurate line of demarcation can be fixed, while again no definite point can be specified where the chalk marl ends, and the greensand below it commences. It abounds in interesting fossils, especially various species of *nautilus* and *ammonite*, and other *cephalopods*; *terebratulæ*, and other shells; sharks' teeth, &c.; the stratum being in some places almost entirely made up of casts of former organisms.

Very good sections of this stratum, as well as of the superior and inferior beds, are to be seen in various parts of the Undercliff, especially at St. Lawrence Shute, above Old Park, and at Mirables, and at different spots on the southern slopes of the central range. At Standen the marl is almost made up of fossils, among which *lobsters' claws* and *sharks' teeth* are met with.

The three beds of the cretaceous system already specified vary much in thickness in different localities, but their united breadth is estimated at between 600 and 1000 feet.

Subdivision IV.—*Upper Greensand.*

It is to this formation, consisting of layers of siliceous limestone and calcareous sandstone, with intermediate soft earthy beds and nodules of chert, varying as a whole from 30 to 100 feet in thickness, that the picturesque beauty of the Undercliff is mainly due.

For details of the various beds of which this series is made up, the scientific reader must be referred to Dr. Martin's work on the "Undercliff," or to Mr. Norman's papers in the "Geologist;" where complete lists of the characteristic fossils are also given. Some of the beds are well adapted for building purposes, and have supplied the whole of the stone used in the erection of the towns and villages of Ventnor, Bonchurch, Shanklin, &c.

Narrow sections of this formation are to be seen at the Culvers, and in Compton Bay, as well as in the roads cut through the lower slopes of the central ridge, as at Brook, Brighstone, Arreton, &c.: but the best are along the

escarpment of the Undercliff, especially above St. Lawrence, and at Cripple Path near Mirables, where a path obliquely traversing the whole face of the cliff, here about 60 feet high, affords a convenient opportunity for examining the various beds in succession. Gore Cliff, between the Sand-rock Hotel and Blackgang, presents another admirable section, displaying the successive beds from the gault upwards to the chalk.

This stratum is also exposed in several places on the northern face of the Southern Downs, forming picturesque inland cliffs with a step-like projection beyond the superincumbent chalk; as on the west side of St. Catherine's Down, the northern of Appuldurcombe Down, below Worsley's obelisk, known as Gat Cliff; and the north and east sides of Shanklin Down, below Cook's Castle.

A complete list of the fossils of this series must be sought elsewhere; that most universally abundant is the "Tulip," or "*Siphonia Websteri*," a kind of sponge with a globular head, at the end of a long tubular stalk, which is to be traced in some localities in almost every block of stone.

Subdivision V.—Gault.

This, the lowest member of the upper cretaceous group, about 70 feet thick on an average, consists of dark bluish grey, harsh sandy clay, interspersed with minute particles of mica, presenting but few fossils (in singular contrast to the general character of the stratum elsewhere), and those ill-preserved and readily falling to pieces on exposure to the air. It contains nodules of sulphuret of iron (*pyrites*), which are often formed on the shore of the Undercliff.

The local name of "*Blue Slipper*" is derived both from its colour and from its soft unctuous character when acted upon by landsprings, or by the atmosphere, when it is squeezed out at the base of the cliffs by the weight of the superincumbent strata, which then "slip" down the smooth-inclined surface, with as much ease as a ship slides down its greased "ways," thus producing the extensive landslips of the ruinous district of the Undercliff.

The harder beds are locally known as "*platnore*," which when exposed to the air sometimes become sufficiently solid to be used for building.

This formation is well seen on the shore between Bonchurch and Luccombe, and in other parts of the Undercliff, *e. g.* by the roadside at Mirables; but by far the finest section, is that already referred to at Gore Cliff, 100 feet thick, where it is seen occupying a much higher position than elsewhere. Along the south side of the central ridge the position of the gault is marked by a valley, or depression more or less perceptible, between the chalk and the lower greensand.

Subdivision VI.—*Lower Greensand, or Neocomian.*

This formation is one of the greatest importance in the geological survey of the Isle of Wight, occupying by far the greater part of the surface of the southern triangular area, and forming the sea cliffs from Bonchurch to the Culvers on the one hand (with the exception of a very small extent of Wealden near Sandown Fort), and from Rockenend to Atherfield on the other.

No portion of the island has had the advantage of more minute investigation; and we would refer the scientific tourist to the monograph of Dr. Fitton, as well as to the papers of Captain Ibbetson and Professor Forbes for full details of the character and succession of the beds, and the various fossils they contain. An excellent summary of Dr. Fitton's researches is given by Dr. Martin*, as well as by Dr. Mantell.

This series, which attains a thickness of at least 800 feet, is separable into three grand divisions; (1.) the "Upper" or "Shanklin Sand," chiefly ferruginous sand with iron-stone, and concretions of chert, having dark clays in the lower portion; (2.) green and grey sand, with beds of calcareous sandstone, and cherty limestone; (3.) the "Atherfield Series," in which the argillaceous character predominates. These three grand divisions are again

* Undercliff, pp. 273, 290.

separated by Dr. Fitton into 16 subordinate groups, still further subdivided into 55 (Professor E. Forbes gives 63) strata.

The fossils are most numerous and interesting, occurring in far greater abundance in the lower part, and rapidly diminishing as we ascend, until at last a space of more than 200 feet is entirely destitute of organic remains, a deficiency especially to be observed at Blackgang.

One of the most abundant shells in the lower beds is the large *Perna Mulleti*, which may be obtained from the base of the cliffs at Atherfield. The magnificent cephalopod *Scaphites gigas* is found in the same locality, and small lobsters and other *astacoid* remains appear abundantly. The large fossil oyster, *Gryphæa sinuata*, is very characteristic of this formation, and may be found everywhere along the shore, especially at Walpen High Cliff and Whale Chine to the west, and Shanklin to the east, where they may be examined *in situ*, both in the cliffs and in the rocks on the shore.

From the wide extent of this formation, opportunities for examining its strata present themselves continually inland, in the many hollow lanes cut through its upper beds, and the various sand pits — *e.g.* at Winson, between Ventnor and Godshell, and at Apse, as well as at the base of the central ridge, a very interesting section of the upper series is shown on the road leading over the downs, from Brighstone to Calbourne, where the vivid colouring, presenting various shades of red, pink, yellow, brown, &c., almost rivals the celebrated sand of Alum Bay. But this series can only be properly studied along the coast, in Chale or Sandown Bays, where the various subdivisions may be seen rising in succession from the shore. The whole of the coast section, between Bonchurch and Rockenend, is concealed by the ruined masses of chalk and greensand forming the terrace of the Undercliff, which, however picturesque, are of no special interest to the geologist; but the sections between Rockenend and Atherfield, as well as between Bonchurch and Sandown, are of unrivalled beauty and clearness, and will abundantly reward the most careful investigator.

The celebrated "chines" of the Isle of Wight belong to this formation. They may be briefly described in Dr. Fitton's words as "great rents or fissures in the surface of the cliffs," extending sometimes to a considerable distance inland, as at Shanklin, Whale, and Cowleaze, "produced by the gradual action of water on the soft beds of sand and clay, unsupported by any solid strata, so that when a rivulet has once formed a channel, it soon cuts down to the shore," unless, as at Blackgang and Walpen, the work of excavation is stopped by a bed firm enough to resist the action of the water.

Subdivision VII.—*Wealden*.

Small as is the area occupied by this formation, it is of great geological interest, and merits careful attention. It is clearly of freshwater origin, having been deposited in lagoons of moderate depth, and often extremely shallow, and corresponds in character to the alluvial debris of the deltas and mudbanks at the mouth of the Amazons, Mississippi, and other great tropical rivers. It abounds in fossil remains of Saurian reptiles, fluviatile mollusca, turtles, and a few ferns and cycadaceous plants.

The Wealden in the Isle of Wight displays only a small portion of the upper members of the formation, consisting of beds of clay, sand and limestone, belonging to the subdivisions known as *Weald clay* and *Hastings sand*, of which the latter is by far the most conspicuous, "the weald clay constituting but a small proportion of the whole." "Beyond Atherfield, the clay emerges from beneath the lower greensand, and exhibits beautiful sections in the chines to the north-west of the point, then passing inland through the lower grounds of Sutton, Marshgreen, Mottistone, and Brook, and reappearing on the shore to the south of the lower greensand ridge at Compton Grange chine."* The Hastings sands, encircled as it were by the clay beds, occupy an oval tract from the west of Cowleaze chine to Compton Grange chine, rising "in an undulating dome-shaped ridge," and present clear and beautiful sections along the shore, as well as in the chines with which it is in-

* Fitton, pp. 185, 186.

tersected. At Brook Point, which appears to be the central and lowest portion of the Hastings sands, a bed of subcalcareous grit shoots out into the sea, forming a dangerous reef (of similar formation to that of Atherfield), containing petrified trunks of coniferous trees, matted together into a raft. The highest point occurs at Barnes High to the south-east of Brighstone.

From Atherfield to Compton Chine, a distance of six or seven miles, the Wealden forms the coast line, and, offering a feeble resistance to the action of the waves, large masses of the cliff are continually falling during the winter and early spring, affording excellent opportunities for the discovery of its organic remains. The junction of the Wealden and Neocomian strata at Atherfield is often entirely obscured by slips and mud torrents, but when visible it is so beautifully distinct, that it is practicable to procure masses not more than a foot thick, containing both marine and freshwater mollusca.

The sections of the Wealden exhibited in Sandown Bay are comparatively insignificant, but the junction of the lower greensands is pronounced by Dr. Fitton to be "better seen than in any other place" known by him except Atherfield. The most eastern portion of the clay, succeeding the sands of Redcliff Bay, though much obscured by falls from the cliffs above, abounds in the characteristic fossils. The Hastings sands rise here into a low curve, beyond which the clay forms a flat shore, usually concealed by the shingle, and only visible after storms have removed the covering. Here, as well as in the western sections, bones of Saurian reptiles are not unfrequently met with; bones of the colossal *Iguanodon* have been found near Sandown Fort, as well as at the foot of the cliff below Yaverland Farm, from which they had been washed by a violent storm. The whole of the formation abounds in thin slabs of the *Paludina* limestone, commonly known as *Petworth marble*, almost entirely made up of the shells of river snails; and of indurated shale full of freshwater bivalves, which are extensively used in the vicinity as paving stones, for which their size, flatness, and hard texture render them very suitable.

CHAPTER VII.

ZOOLOGY.

Mammalia—Birds—Reptiles—Freshwater Fishes—Coleoptera—
Hymenoptera—Lepidoptera—Land-shells—Sea Anemones.

MAMMALIA, OR QUADRUPEDS.

BY A. G. MORE, F.L.S.

LITTLE has been done to increase our acquaintance with the Isle of Wight Quadrupeds since the Rev. C. A. Bury, in 1844, led the way with his notes on the Mammalia, published in the "Zoologist."

As was then anticipated, it is among the Bats only that any addition has been made to the list: and no doubt a careful search among the caves of the Undercliff, or the hanging woods about Cook's Castle, &c., might increase the number still further by the discovery of the *Lesser Horseshoe Bat*, *Bechstein's* the *Whiskered*, or even the *Barbastelle Bat*.

So short an interval has been allowed for the preparation of the following account, that the writer has collected very few observations of his own: but he has derived a more complete knowledge of the subject from his friend Mr. Bury, who, in this department especially, has most readily furnished him with assistance and notes.

The names are taken from Bell's British Quadrupeds, and being mostly well known, it has been thought needless to give the Latin synonyms.

I.—CHEIROPTERA, OR BATS.

PIPISTRELLE, or COMMON BAT— is very plentiful, and has frequently been noticed flying in broad daylight: it often shows itself on mild evenings in winter.

SEROTINE BAT— appears to be generally distributed and by no means scarce. It has been obtained repeatedly at Bembridge, where it was very common until the recent felling of old timber and clearing of hedgerows, prescribed by the present advanced state of farming. Newchurch, Godshill, and Brighstone are also known to produce this species said to be rare in Britain.

MOUSE-COLOURED BAT.—For this fine addition to the island Fauna we are indebted to F. Bond, Esq., who shot several of these bats at the western extremity of the Isle of Wight, where they are seen flying wildly round the cliffs near the edge of Freshwater Down. This is the largest of the British species, exceeding the Noctule, and measuring three inches more than the Serotine across the wings.

REDDISH-GRAY, or NATTERER'S BAT—has once occurred at Bonchurch, as I am informed by Mr. Bury.

DAUBENTON'S BAT—has been several times obtained in the Undercliff, a locality singularly well suited to the Cheiropterous tribe, from the abundance of its caves and rough uncultivated ground.

LONG-EARED BAT—is decidedly uncommon. I saw a fine series of this bat in the collection of H. S. Leeson, Esq., at Bonchurch, some of his specimens measuring more than eleven and a half inches across the wings. So great a variation in size seems to cast additional doubt upon the claim of the *Lesser-eared Bat* to rank as a genuine species; this latter has not yet been ascertained to inhabit the island.

GREATER HORSE-SHOE BAT—is the commonest large bat in the Undercliff. Mr. Leeson has obtained numbers of this species from the caves at Bonchurch, and Mr. Bury observes it occasionally at Sandown.

II.—INSECTIVORA.

HEDGEHOG—is as common as in most other parts of England. It is perhaps too true that the hedgehog is occasionally guilty of robbing a nest of eggs as well as of young birds, but its principal food consists no doubt of worms and insects: it is also said to prove itself a formidable enemy to the viper, and the skill shown by a captive hedgehog in killing and afterwards eating one of these reptiles, (as related in the "British Quadrupeds,") did not look like a first experiment. "Rusticus" graphically describes such an encounter when the hedgehog "catches the snake while dozing under cover and suffering from repletion . . . tail on: and it is then a desperate fight ensues, it is then his armour stands hoggy in good stead: the deadly adder infuriated at finding hoggy's teeth griping her back, lashes her

head against a skin less vulnerable than the armour of Achilles. The pluck and power of both is tried to the utmost, but hoggy is almost sure to triumph in the end; and the adder half-devoured is often found next morning by the countryman, who wonders 'how he came so mauled.' "

Vulgar rumour charges the hedgehog with surreptitiously "sucking cows:" and evidence in favour of this tradition is to be found in the "Zoologist" for 1853, p. 4151, where it is related how one night two hedgehogs were caught sucking a cow as she lay upon the grass, and remained suspended to her udder when she rose until detached by being knocked off with a stick!!

MOLE—is common. Some capital remarks in defence of the mole may be referred to in the "Zoologist," p. 779. Mr. Bury considers it beneficial, both on account of its draining operations, and from the large number of worms which it consumes. A buff-coloured variety is found near Cowes.

COMMON SHREW, OR SHREW MOUSE—is abundant. Its great mortality in autumn is now very generally ascribed to its pugnacious disposition: when two shrews are placed together in a cage they will attack each other with the utmost ferocity.

WATER SHREW—has been several times seen diving in the ditches on Sandown marshes, near Alverstone and Pan Common.

III.—CARNIVORA.

BADGER—is scarce, though it is known to occur in the neighbourhood of Newchurch and Brading.

OTTER—has been ascertained to have once bred in the island: but Mr. Bury considers that the few otters which are still occasionally seen, are only visitors from the opposite coast of Hampshire. It is related at Bembridge that formerly, when otters were still plentiful, they were often known to swim out to sea and take possession of any fish that might have been left on board the boats anchored off the Foreland.

WEASEL—is rather unfrequent.

STOAT OR ERMINE—is abundant: Mr. Bury mentions several instances in which the Stoat has been found perfectly white even in so southerly a climate as this: and it

is by no means unusual in hard weather to find individuals more or less pied. The stoat is an inveterate enemy of the rat, and has often been seen following its prey by scent, whether by itself or in company with others of its own species.

COMMON MARTEN—has been once seen in the wild rocky ground of the Undercliff, where it may still exist, though no recent observer has met with it.

FOX—was formerly unknown in the Isle of Wight, but has lately been encouraged for the sake of hunting: and has now become thoroughly established, finding many strongholds in the woods and cliffs, from which it is difficult to dislodge it.

COMMON SEAL—is seen but rarely. One was found a few years ago lying asleep on the embankment of Brading Harbour. When roused it threw itself hastily from the wall, and no doubt was rather surprised to find the water had receded so far. As it was, the seal took bravely to the mud flats, over which it soon retreated safe enough from the molestation of the lady who had discovered it.

IV.—RODENTIA.

DORMOUSE—is common.

LONG-TAILED FIELD MOUSE—is abundant. There is reason to fear that the young of this species has been in more than one instance mistaken for the next.

HARVEST MOUSE has occurred in the neighbourhood of Shanklin.

COMMON MOUSE.

BROWN RAT.

WATER VOLE, or WATER RAT.

BANK VOLE.

FIELD VOLE, or SHORT-TAILED FIELD MOUSE—are all common, and so are the

HARE and the RABBIT.

V.—CETACEA.

COMMON PORPOISE — is sometimes observed in large shoals, especially during summer.

GREY DOLPHIN (*Delphinus griseus*)—has once been taken

in Puckaster Cove, the first instance of the species being made known as a native of the English seas.

ROUND-HEADED PORPOISE ("Ca'ing Whale" of the Shetlanders). —A single specimen, that was stranded at St. Lawrence in December 1853, came under the notice of Mr. G. Guyon. (*Zool.* p. 4202.) Its occurrence so far south is very remarkable.

NORTHERN RORQUAL.—The skeleton exhibited at Blackgang is considered to belong to this species; the largest of the northern whales.

ORNITHOLOGY.

The Birds of the Isle of Wight have already furnished materials for a most interesting and able article, contributed by the Rev. C. A. Bury to the "*Zoologist*" for 1844 and 1845; and those who take a more than ordinary interest in the subject will do well to refer to that essay, where Mr. Bury has entered into fuller details, and enlivened his account with many amusing anecdotes that would be out of place in so brief a sketch as the present. Though to some extent based upon observations previously published, this outline may claim to be something more than a mere repetition. During the 14 years which have elapsed, more than 25 species have been added to the list, and further information has been obtained respecting several birds which in 1845 had been insufficiently observed. The writer gladly acknowledges the valuable aid and advice which he has received from his friends, the Rev. C. A. Bury and Mr. F. Bond, who have most kindly placed their recent observations at his disposal; he is also much indebted to Mr. H. Rogers, the intelligent naturalist of Freshwater, for some very useful remarks.

The plan followed, in the arrangement of species, is similar to that employed in the "*Letters of Rusticus*," and in several of the best local lists of birds published in the "*Zoologist*," and it is believed that this method of grouping offers many advantages.

GROUP I.—RESIDENTS, 58.

The birds that nest in the island and remain the whole year.

Of the species comprised in this class, several are partially migratory, receiving an increase to their numbers in winter, or at the two periods of migration. The water-rail and wild-duck have only been placed here after much hesitation, as but very few pairs are known to breed annually.

Peregrine Falcon	House Sparrow
Kestrel	Greenfinch
Sparrowhawk	Goldfinch
Longeared Owl	Linnet
Barn Owl	Bullfinch
Tawny Owl	Starling
Missel Thrush	Chough
Song Thrush	Raven
Blackbird	Crow
Hedge Sparrow	Rook
Robin Redbreast	Jackdaw
Stonechat	Magpie
Dartford Warbler	Jay
Golden-crested Regulus	Creeper
Great Titmouse	Wren
Blue Titmouse	Kingfisher
Cole Titmouse	Ring Dove
Marsh Titmouse	Pheasant
Longtailed Titmouse	Partridge
Pied Wagtail	Lapwing
Meadow Pipit	Heron
Rock Pipit	Moorhen
Sky Lark	Water Rail
Wood Lark	Wild Duck
Common Bunting	Guillemot
Blackheaded Bunting	Razorbill
Yellowhammer	Cormorant
Cirl Bunting	Shag
Chaffinch	Herring Gull

PEREGRINE FALCON — has long been known to build every year at the Freshwater and Culver Cliffs, as well as in the range of the Undercliff. These fine birds have been shamefully ill used during the past few seasons. Not only have their eyries been regularly plundered, but the parents shot and trapped upon the nest itself!

KESTREL — is common at all seasons, but receives a considerable accession to its numbers in autumn, and, I believe, also, in the spring. In the crop of a kestrel shot in April, 1859, were found several *newts*, which the bird must have taken from the surface of the water. Though land reptiles are mentioned, I was not previously aware that the water-newt forms a part of the food of this hawk.

LONG-EARED OWL — is one of our rarest birds. During many years' observation, Mr. H. Rogers has once met with it at Freshwater. This bird is known to be migratory in some parts of the continent, and of England also. One was shot at Bembridge during the past winter.

TAWNY OWL — is apparently very scarce, though known to frequent the neighbourhood of Newchurch; it has only once occurred at Freshwater, in September, 1856.

DARTFORD WARBLER — one of the most interesting of our indigenous species, is by no means unfrequent in the furze, on St. Boniface Down: it occurs also at Pan Common, and about Newchurch, in the Rookley Moors or "wilderness," near Godshill, and at Freshwater. Mr. Bury has recently noticed a curious habit that this bird has of frequenting in winter the open turnip fields, where it often rises before the sportsman. This agrees singularly with what is said of its resorting to the cabbage gardens in Provence, whence the French name of "*Pitte-chou*," or cabbage pecker.

GOLD-CREST — is much more numerous in winter.

MARSH TITMOUSE. — By far the least common of its family.

PIED WAGTAIL — is partially migratory; small flocks arriving in the middle or end of March, in the manner so well described by Mr. Knox, in the Ornithological Rambles in Sussex. At this date, the summer moult of the wagtails is more advanced than that of the few wheatears which accompany them.

MEADOW PIPIT or **TITLARK**.—This bird is also more numerous at the periods of migration. A great many titlarks were observed with the flocks of redstarts that visited us in the spring of 1858.

ROCK PIPIT—abounds in the muddy creeks of the north side of the Isle of Wight, as well as upon the rocky southern coast.

WOODLARK—is one of our most uncommon birds; it nests but very sparingly. A small flock has been observed repeatedly, during the past winter, near Bordwood; and at Freshwater a party of five was seen, and one obtained by Mr. Rogers. A pair occurred at Bembridge in April, 1859.

COMMON BUNTING—is more numerous in winter, when it is occasionally abundant.

REED or **BLACK-HEADED BUNTING**—I incline to think is partially migratory, fewer of these birds being seen in winter. Mr. Rogers agrees in this opinion, and speaks of their favourite haunts being deserted at this season.

CIRL BUNTING—is generally distributed over all the Isle of Wight, especially in the neighbourhood of the coast. About Bembridge and Brading, it is one of the commonest hedge birds.

GOLDFINCH—occurs in small flocks at the autumnal immigration. A few pairs remain to nest in the gardens at Bembridge, Bonchurch, Calbourne, &c.

LINNET, and **BULLFINCH**—are both observed in greater numbers during the winter season.

CHOUGH.—For two years past the chough has not been known to breed at Freshwater. A pair or two are still said to linger in the neighbourhood of Blackgang. If a little more pains were taken to preserve, and less to destroy our rarest birds, there might be some greater hope of seeing this interesting species long continue in its accustomed haunts. As it is, the chough is already extinct in Sussex, and the time is, perhaps, not far distant when it will disappear from our cliffs as well.

RAVEN—builds regularly in many parts of the Isle of Wight. The raven is, in the nesting season, remarkably jealous of the approach of other birds; I have seen them in chase of the jackdaws, as well as threatening the falcons.

KINGFISHER.—Only a few pairs remain with us during the summer, and in winter hardly any are noticed; but these beautiful birds are sometimes plentiful in autumn, when it is not unusual to see them fishing in the rock pools along the shore. At Bembridge they have been frequently observed to station themselves at the furthest extremity of a ledge of rocks left bare at low water, and when the wind was blowing off shore they might be found sitting upon the sea-weed, watching for their prey, or hovering over and plunging into the open salt water. In the autumn of 1858 two or three were constantly seen in company; when disturbed, one of these birds had a habit of taking refuge in a thick willow bed, from which we found it difficult to dislodge it; nor is this the only instance known of its resorting to trees, for I have more than once noticed the kingfisher, when repeatedly flushed, to fly right up into the top of a high elm; and a nest has recently been taken from a bank situated in the midst of a thick copse. At Freshwater, Mr. Rogers has observed the kingfisher to nest in the fissures of some of the caves upon the coast, a most unusual locality, and one that has escaped the notice of English writers. Temminck, however, mentions both hollow trees and the crevices of caves, as occasionally used for the nest.

RING DOVE—is one of the residents, that receive in winter a considerable increase to their numbers.

HERON—has only once nested in the Isle of Wight, but, as there are heronries at no great distance upon the opposite coast, there is no season at which this bird does not frequent the mud-flats, both of the inland creeks and open shore alike.

WATER RAIL and WILD DUCK.—Not more than a few pairs are known to nest with us. In winter they become more numerous.

SHAG (or GREEN CORMORANT)—is the rarest of the sea-birds that inhabit our cliffs during the summer. It is even doubtful whether it any longer breeds at Freshwater: not more than two or three are now observed about the cliffs, and their number is not known to receive addition at any other season. Like the chough, the shag is the doomed victim of the collector; and who can tell how long the puffin and falcon may survive continued persecution.

HERRING GULL — is the only sea-bird that breeds at the Culver. At present the herring gull, razorbill, guillemot, black cormorant, and perhaps the shag, with the puffin in summer, complete the list of indigenous sea-fowl. A few land birds inhabit the same precipices, of which the falcon, raven, kestrel, jackdaw, house-martin, rock pipit, and wheatear, are the most interesting. The lesser black-backed gull will be enumerated among the winter visitors, as it is only occasionally that a pair is known to breed among the hundreds of herring gulls which frequent the cliffs at Freshwater.

A most animated and amusing description of a visit to Freshwater in the breeding season will be found in the "Letters of Rusticus," chapters iv. and v., and it is there correctly stated in a foot-note to page 37 that the Kittiwake does not build at the Needles. The "Great Burgo-master" of Rusticus is probably the immature Herring Gull.

GROUP II.—SUMMER VISITORS, 28.

Birds that nest in the Isle of Wight, but regularly leave it before winter.

The species are arranged according to the order in which they generally arrive; two or three printed in italics will be found in their proper place elsewhere. One or two swallows or sandmartins are almost always the first seen of those migratory birds which arrive at the beginning of April; the main body however is much later and does not usually make its appearance until towards the end of the month. An early or late season makes but little difference in the dates of the birds of passage, since naturally the fluctuations of our variable climate are not felt in those hotter regions whence the little birds set out. I suspect that the effect of a late season will be better seen from the date of arrival of the main body than of the first stragglers.

MARCH.

[*Pied Wagtail*]
Wheatear
Chiffchaff

BEGINNING OF APRIL.

[*Ring Ouzel.*]
Swallow
Willow Wren

Blackcap

[*Titlark*]

Wryneck

Redstart

Nightingale

Sandmartin

Cuckoo

Lesser Whitethroat

Whinchat

Grasshopper Warbler

Reed Warbler

Tree Pipit

Wood Warbler

Garden Warbler

MIDDLE OF APRIL.

Whitethroat

Yellow Wagtail

Martin

Sedge Warbler

MAY.

Turtle Dove

[*Common Sandpiper*]

Land Rail

Red-backed Shrike

Swift

Spotted Fly-catcher

Nightjar

END OF APRIL.

Puffin

PIED WAGTAIL.—The appearance of small flocks of these birds is the earliest indication we observe that the migratory movement has commenced.

WHEATEAR — is the first to arrive of our summer birds of passage. Towards the end of March a few stragglers only are seen, and these have scarcely assumed the full summer plumage. In the first week of April, the wheatears become more numerous, and small parties succeed each other throughout the month, only a few remain to nest upon our high downs. In August the wheatears reappear upon our shores, old and young now exhibit a dull rusty, or reddish uniform colour, far less handsome than the grey of the breeding season. It is interesting in autumn to wander along the shore, when scarce a heap of seaweed but is tenanted by some sprightly wheatear, and to watch the titlarks, wagtails, and whinchats in pursuit of their insect prey, while little coveys of goldfinches cling twittering to the thistles, and here and there sits solitary a villainous-looking shrike, more than suspected of occasionally garrotting. The wheatear is a striking instance of those birds which make the Isle of Wight a kind of halting place on their way further north. As with the redstart, yellow wagtail, and especially the land rail, whatever numbers

may be seen at the migratory periods, only a very inconsiderable proportion remain to nest.

The RING OUZEL is as regular in its arrival as any of our summer visitors; it comes third in order, appearing usually in the first few days of April.

PUFFIN — breeds at the Freshwater cliffs in far smaller numbers than the razorbill and guillemot, which are equally called by the name of "Puffin," by the less observant of our sailors and fishermen.

LESSER WHITETHROAT, and WHINCHAT are scarce, at least in the breeding season.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER — is perhaps more generally distributed than is supposed; its skulking habits and note, more like an insect than a bird, no doubt often enable it to escape notice. There are near Bembridge two or three favourite haunts where it may with certainty be heard any summer evening; it is, however, a bird of solitary habits, and not more than a single pair are found to occupy the same spot. At Bembridge, the grasshopper warbler occurs in dry copses and appears fond of the thickest jungle of brambles and matted grass, and is not partial to reeds only and the neighbourhood of water. It sings late into the night, and we have surprised it with a lantern when out in pursuit of insects. My friend, Mr. Bury, informs me that the eggs taken from the face of the Culver cliff, and which he supposed to belong to this bird, are a remarkable variety of those of the rock pipit.

REED WARBLER, — with the more common SEDGE WARBLER, is not unfrequent among the rank rushes and carices which fringe so many of the ditches in Sandown marshes. Mr. Rogers has also noticed the reed warbler at Freshwater.

TREE PIPIT, — Mr. Rogers considers not very scarce at Freshwater; but the bird is by no means general in the Isle of Wight, and is said to be found mostly on the north side of the downs.

WOOD WARBLER — has been observed occasionally in Youngwood Copse, and once at Ryde. Mr. Rogers finds it every summer at Freshwater, where it seems partial to fir plantations.

GARDEN WARBLER — is scarce. It has been found at Freshwater and about Newchurch, and a single bird was once shot at Bembridge, in the act of singing so late as the month of August.

COMMON SANDPIPER — belongs properly to the following division.

SWIFT — Not many pairs remain to breed. It musters sometimes in vast numbers at the Culver cliffs, previous to its departure in autumn.

LAND RAIL. — Very few are known to spend the summer with us; a land rail that was once heard “craking” near Ryde, attracted all the notice due to a very rare bird. As in the other southern counties, great numbers are shot in the clover fields in September. It nests, but in very limited numbers, at Freshwater and Newchurch, and has once or twice been met with in midwinter (see *Zoologist*). It will not be necessary to give here, the dates of the arrival of our summer birds of passage, since they are no earlier with us than in other parts of the south of England. It is much to be wished that those who record these dates, would endeavour to register the arrival of the main body as well as that of the few precursors, which are generally thought to indicate sufficiently the arrival of the whole. And it is in this way only, with careful observations of the temperature and direction of the wind, that we can hope to obtain a more correct insight into the laws which govern that most difficult of subjects — Migration.

GROUP III. — BIRDS OF DOUBLE PASSAGE, 8:

or those that are seen both in spring and autumn, but do not remain during the summer, and are scarcely ever seen in winter.

Ring Ouzel.

Redshank.

Grey Plover.

Greenshank.

Oyster Catcher.

Common Sandpiper.

Whimbrel.

Bar-tailed Godwit.

RING OUZEL — is the only land bird of strictly double passage, though some of the summer visitors are partially so.

The ring ouzel appears nearly at the same date with the chiffchaff. In spring the numbers are small and their stay short, but in September when they reappear the ring ouzels are more numerous, and are to be found for many weeks scattered upon our downs; the East End landslip is also a favourite resort at this season. Upon St. Boniface Down, Mr. H. S. Leeson finds the ring ouzels very partial to the furze bushes, beneath which they take shelter when alarmed: and he has also remarked that they not uncommonly remain until November, and in the mild season of 1858, he met with a few so late as the beginning of December.

In the summer of 1852, two ring ouzels were several times observed near Bonchurch during the breeding season.

At Freshwater also, instances are known in which the bird has been met with during summer. Mr. H. Rogers shot an adult male in July 1857, and saw a female in company with it. Others had been observed in the summer of 1856, so that it is barely possible a straggling pair or two may occasionally nest in the Isle of Wight: it has been known to do so once in a garden in Suffolk.

The WHIMBREL and REDSHANK — are the best instances we have of waders of truly double passage. It is only at the two periods of migration that it is usual to meet with any of the large sandpipers, and as September is the best month for numbers, so are the rarest and most beautiful specimens obtained in April or even May. Then it is that occurs the turnstone in his singularly pied plumage; the dunlin wearing his summer dress of bright russet; and we may perchance see the grey plover, strangest of birds, with his great white head and back, so strikingly contrasted against the black of the under parts; and, prize of the season! bay-breasted knots or godwits may be found, stalking slowly across the mud-flats or basking fearlessly upon some gravel point just left bare by the falling tide.

COMMON SANDPIPER — belongs rather to the birds of double passage than to the summer visitors. It is stated by Mr. Knox, to nest regularly in Sussex, though but a few years ago it was said not to breed south of Yorkshire.

The only locality in the island, where it is thought the

common sandpiper may possibly nest, is in the neighbourhood of Freshwater, where Mr. Rogers says that more than one pair are to be found during the breeding season; it appears they frequent throughout the summer the rocks along the shore, and the shingly beach at the foot of the chalk cliffs, as well as the more sheltered locality of Tolland's Bay. The dotterel is a bird of too great rarity with us to be properly placed in this section, in two instances it has been seen in spring, and several times in autumn.

GROUP IV.—WINTER VISITORS, 41.

Birds that are found in the Isle of Wight during the winter only, or at all events leave us at the breeding season.

A stray pair of the coot and little grebe may remain to nest, but their eggs have not yet been found; and both these birds are far more numerous in winter.

Merlin.	Common Shieldrake.
Shorteared Owl.	Pintail Duck.
Fieldfare.	Teal.
Redwing.	Wigeon.
Black Redstart.	Common Scoter.
Gray Wagtail.	Pochard.
Siskin.	Scaup Duck.
Lesser Redpole.	Tufted Duck.
Golden Plover.	Redbreasted Merganser.
Ringed Plover.	Great Crested Grebe.
Sanderling.	Slavonian Grebe.
Curlew.	Little Grebe.
Green Sandpiper.	Great Northern Diver.
Woodcock.	Redthroated Diver.
Common Snipe.	Gannet.
Jack Snipe.	Blackheaded Gull.
Knot.	Kittiwake.
Dunlin.	Common Gull.
Coot.	Lesser Blackbacked Gull.
Bean Goose.	Great Blackbacked Gull.
Brent Goose.	

MERLIN—though rare, occurs every winter: the fact of its being so much more frequently obtained than the HOBBY,

shows that the open Downs rather than the woods, are the important features of Isle of Wight landscape.

BLACK REDSTART.—A few are, during winter, scattered at different points of the coast. At Sandown, Mr. Bury has noticed these birds for the last three years, and they are seen occasionally at certain localities in the Undercliff, as well as at Freshwater and Bembridge.

The black redstart offers a good example of a movement little noticed, but which is believed to take place in autumn and winter from the east to the west of Europe, and is dependent upon the condition now well understood, of the comparatively mild "maritime" climate of the western countries of Europe, at a time when the eastern and central portion are suffering all the rigours of the inclement "continental climate." It will be seen that this migration from east to west lies in a direction nearly at right angles to the isotherms of winter temperature in the west of Europe—though of course but a very small proportion of the birds remain to winter with us, or even reach so outlying an island as Great Britain; the main body, probably, direct their course to the south, along the western shores of France.

The Fire-crested *Regulus* is another instance of a small-billed migratory bird, that does not go far north in summer, yet occurs upon our coasts in winter only.

SISKIN and REDPOLE—are seen every winter, but in no great numbers, and the siskin is the scarcer of the two. Perhaps, as with others in this group, they are found to be more numerous at the two periods of migration, but then they appear later in autumn and earlier in spring than the summer visitors.

Mr. H. S. Leeson has met with the siskin in spring and autumn only at Bonchurch.

The redpole is often found in the wet alder thickets that so abound along the course of the East Yar: Mr. Rogers shot two at Freshwater in June 1855.

GOLDEN PLOVER—occurs during severe weather only near Newchurch: but at Freshwater is more often found in spring or autumn. In trying to ascertain which of our

winter visitors are then reinforced, it is not always easy to make out whether your informant, who speaks of seeing birds in winter, may not really have met with them in early spring or at the end of autumn.

RINGED PLOVER or RING DOTTEREL—is scarcely ever absent from our shores, but no longer breeds within the limits of the Isle of Wight. It shares with the dunlin, the local name of “Oxbird,” and in winter it is rare to find among the flocks of sandpipers any other besides these two species, with may be an occasional sanderling or knot.

SANDERLING—is far from common. At Bembridge they have been more frequently noticed in small parties by themselves than associated with the flocks of “Oxbirds.”

GREEN SANDPIPER—is most usually obtained in autumn, when it comes to us later than the common sandpiper: and a few stray birds have been known to spend the winter in the island. There is not yet sufficient evidence to prove that the green sandpiper breeds at Yarmouth; it is more likely to appear there in autumn as a migrant from the opposite coast.

WOODCOCK.—A pair has occasionally been known to rear its young brood in the island.

KNOT—is obtained every year, but principally in autumn, and in the plumage of the young or the “Ash-coloured Sandpiper.” Once only have I shot the adult knot in Brading Harbour, and that was early in September: it has very seldom been seen at the time of the spring movement.

DUNLIN—may be said to occur in every month, except perhaps June. About the middle of July a few stragglers are noticed, and those seen in this month as well as in August almost all exhibit the black breast of the *adult* summer plumage. “Oxbirds” become more numerous in September, and are then often associated with knots, redshanks, grey and ringed plovers, indeed, the latter are at this season the most numerous species. Mid-winter in ordinary years is by no means the best time for seeing numbers of “Oxbirds.” It sometimes happens that for weeks together only a few stragglers are to be found along the shores. Nor is the coast of the Isle of Wight sufficiently extensive to become a favourite resort of these birds. A hard winter naturally

brings a fresh immigration, but most of these retire when the frost is past.

COOT—cannot quite be included among our resident birds, though from what Mr. Rogers has observed near Freshwater, it seems likely a pair or two may breed regularly in that favoured locality. The nest has yet to be found.

BRENT GOOSE, or, locally "BRAN GOOSE,"—is the only common wild goose we have. It appears with the first frosts of November, and is to be seen almost constantly about Spithead throughout the winter: but a continuance of severe weather and north-east wind is required to render these birds at all tame. So many bullets are uselessly thrown at them from a distance, that it is rarely indeed a shot gun can be brought to bear effectually. Towards the end of March fresh flocks of brent geese and various ducks are sometimes seen on their migration resting in the Solent.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER—is I believe a regular winter visitor. It is a shy bird and clever diver, so that not many are shot, except when in severe weather they enter the creeks, and it is the immature birds that are then obtained in Brading harbour. The adults are much more scarce, but early in March 1859, a small party of two old and one immature bird was seen in Whitecliff Bay. Mr. Rogers states that at Freshwater also the merganser occurs every winter; it is well known to the fishermen by the name of the "Spear Duck," or "Spear Widgeon."

LITTLE GREBE—used formerly to be abundant in winter, both upon the open sea, along shore, and in Brading harbour: but during the past three winters scarcely a single little grebe has been noticed. They are known to frequent the Yar at Freshwater during summer, but I am not aware the nest has been found. Westmill Pond is another locality mentioned by Mr. Bury as a breeding haunt; that piece of water, however, is now drained.

NORTHERN DIVER—is by no means uncommon, and may be seen, though not so easily shot, any day in winter. It seems to occur in the proportion of one to three of the RED-THROATED DIVER. It was formerly not uncommon when the tide receded to find several "loons" left in the small basin which is all that remains of Brading har-

bour: a rare chase ensued, in which several boats took part, and the loons, hard pressed in so small a space, would scarcely reach the surface except to offer one momentary glimpse of their arched backs, as they plunged again beneath the friendly waters. Few were killed, for their quickness and power of eluding shot are something quite extraordinary. Even on occasions when guns were being continually discharged at close quarters, the divers, once thoroughly alarmed, seemed to find no difficulty in "ducking the flash" each time, and if any were struck it was only when their eyes were averted from the shooter. Both loons are occasionally seen so late as the middle of April, when distinct indication of the summer plumage may be observed upon their necks. There is something very wild in the melancholy long-drawn cry of the northern diver when heard over the calm sea: and in rough weather who can watch without interest his gallant bearing as he rides so fearlessly through the waves?

GANNET or SOLAN GOOSE.—Large flocks of gannets are well known to pass the winter in mid-channel and sometimes approach our coast.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL—cannot be ranked among the residents, since it does not breed regularly at the Fresh-water Cliffs. One or two pairs have been known to nest there in 1857 and 1858, but this is said to be a very unusual occurrence. In April both pairs and small parties of lesser black-backed gulls, in full summer plumage, are seen upon their passage further north.

GROUP V.—OCCASIONAL VISITORS, 85.

Birds that occur at uncertain intervals and rarely.

Golden Eagle.	Hen Harrier.
Whitetailed Eagle.	Montagu's Harrier.
Osprey.	Great Grey Shrike.
Hobby.	Woodchat Shrike.
Buzzard.	Pied Flycatcher.
Rough-legged Buzzard.	Golden Oriole.
Honey Buzzard.	Firecrested Regulus.
Marsh Harrier.	Crested Titmouse.

Bearded Titmouse.	Whitefronted Goose.
Bohemian Waxwing.	Bernicle Goose.
White Wagtail.	Canada Goose.
Snow Bunting.	Hooper.
Brambling.	Shoveller.
Tree Sparrow.	Gadwall.
Hawfinch.	Garganey.
Twite.	Eider Duck.
Crossbill.	Longtailed Duck.
White-winged Crossbill.	Golden-eye.
Rose-coloured Pastor.	Smew.
Hooded Crow.	Goosander.
Great Black Woodpecker.	Red-necked Grebe.
Green Woodpecker.	Eared Grebe.
Great Spotted Woodpecker.	Black-throated Diver.
Hoopoe.	Brunnich's Guillemot.
Bee-eater.	Ringed Guillemot.
Stock Dove.	Black Guillemot.
Rock Dove.	Little Auk.
Red-legged Partridge.	Northern Puffin.
Quail.	Sandwich Tern.
Stone Curlew.	Common Tern.
Dotterell.	Arctic Tern.
Turnstone.	Lesser Tern.
Squacco Heron.	Black Tern.
Bittern.	Little Gull.
Little Bittern.	Masked Gull.
Spoonbill.	Glaucous Gull.
Black-winged Stilt.	Common Skua.
Ruff.	Pomarine Skua.
Great Snipe.	Richardson's Skua.
Curlew Sandpiper.	Manx Shearwater.
Purple Sandpiper.	Forktailed Petrel.
Spotted Crake.	Stormy Petrel.
Gray Phalarope.	

GOLDEN EAGLE—has once occurred at Appuldurcombe.
(See *Zoologist*, vol. ii. p. 516.)

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE.—Is stated in Warner's history
of the Isle of Wight to have reared its young at the Culver

Cliffs in 1780. Mr. Bury has also recorded another more recent instance of its having visited the island. (See *Zoologist*.)

OSPREY.—Was seen at Bembridge, Sept. 10, 1856. It had stationed itself upon one of the booms which mark the entrance to Brading harbour. On the approach of my boat it flew off, and soon afterwards struck at a fish in the tide-way, but having missed its hold, and perhaps finding itself in too close vicinity to the village, the osprey flew straight away to the head of the harbour, and was not seen again. Another osprey was observed in Brading harbour, May 2, 1859. This bird is well known to occur occasionally on the south coast chiefly in autumn.

HOBBY—is very rarely seen.

BUZZARDS—are all three exceedingly scarce. The COMMON BUZZARD used to build in the Isle of Wight many years ago, but has not recently been obtained. The HONEY and ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARDS have each been once killed. One or more species of buzzard pass over the island in spring and autumn, at which seasons they have generally been observed soaring at a considerable elevation, and in one instance the buzzard was accompanied and mobbed by two smaller birds that looked like sparrow-hawks.

From what Mr. Knox says of the buzzards in Sussex, probably the honey buzzard is the species most often observed here, though the common buzzard may also occur at the periods of migration; but the rough-legged buzzard seems to visit the south coast of England later in autumn, or when driven by severe cold in winter.

The HARRIERS are also very rare. The HEN HARRIER is mentioned by Mr. Bury to have once nested on the Isle of Wight (*Zool.* p. 524), but has not been met with lately.

MARSH HARRIER—has recently been added to our Fauna by Mr. F. Bond, who saw a specimen that had been obtained near Freshwater in May or June 1855.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER.—Besides the specimen mentioned by Mr. Bury, I have seen an adult male, which is in the possession of Mr. Wavell at Newport. A third was brought to Mr. H. Rogers at Freshwater in August 1858. Probably a summer visitor only to England, as suggested

in the Ornithological Dictionary; and those seen here are stragglers interrupted on their migration.

GREY SHRIKE—has been once shot at Yarmouth. (See *Zool.* p. 635.)

WOODCHAT.—I am indebted to my friend Mr. F. Bond for the information that within the last few years the Woodchat has twice nested at Freshwater; and as one of the young birds of the second brood was obtained in September 1856, there remains no doubt as to the identity of the species. Mr. Bond has still in his possession the two nests with their eggs.

PIED FLYCATCHER—is occasionally observed as a straggler upon the passage to its summer breeding haunts in the midland and north-western counties. Two were thus obtained at Freshwater three years ago; and more recently (1858) a pair of pied flycatchers built their nest and laid their eggs at Freshwater: several were observed there in 1859, when the bird was also seen at Newport by Mr. G. Kirkpatrick.

GOLDEN ORIOLE.—A male bird was seen at Freshwater in May 1859.

FIRECREST.—From a number of *Reguli* knocked down promiscuously out of a large flock that visited Freshwater in December 1857, Mr. Beazley, the Ryde bird-stuffer, selected for preservation an adult male of the firecrest. It is probable that many more belonged to the rarer species. The immigration in winter of large bodies of *Reguli* has been repeatedly noticed upon both the east and south coasts of England. (See also Thompson's "*Birds of Ireland*," vol. i. p. 198.) Like the black redstart, the firecrest is a bird from central Europe, visiting the shores of the Channel in autumn and winter.

CRESTED TITMOUSE—is given in the "*Zoologist*" as an Isle of Wight bird, upon faith of a single specimen which Mr. Bury saw in the possession of Mr. Butler of Yarmouth. This is, I believe, the only known instance of its having been obtained in the south of England.

BEARDED TITMOUSE—has been once obtained near Ryde. (*Zool.* p. 639.)

WAXWING—has at least in one instance been killed. (*Zool.* p. 639).

WHITE WAGTAIL — has occurred at Freshwater and Sandown, at the end of April and early in May.

SNOW BUNTING.—Mr. Rogers mentions its having occurred at Freshwater in February 1855, during the severe cold of that extraordinary winter. A few other instances are known.

BRAMBLING or MOUNTAIN FINCH —is usually seen in severe frost. At Freshwater it was obtained at the same time as the snow bunting. It has been noticed but once at Bembridge, where, in December 1848, many of these birds were seen flocking with chaffinches in the hedge-rows; but is said to be less rare in the Undercliff.

TREE SPARROW—is very seldom known to visit the Isle of Wight. One was shot at Freshwater in May 1858, and the bird has sometimes been driven to us in hard weather.

HAWFINCH — has occurred a few times in late autumn or winter.

TWITE—is also a winter visitor of rare occurrence upon the high downs.

CROSSBILLS—were noticed at Bembridge in the summer of 1849 and 1856, but on neither occasion did they remain longer than a few weeks. The crossbill has also been recently observed at Freshwater.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL —is supposed to have once occurred (see *Zool.* p. 643); whether the European or American species cannot be said.

ROSE-COLOURED PASTOR.—One of these scarce birds was shot near Sea View in May 1855, and is now in possession of the Ryde Philosophical Society. Another was killed at Headon Hill two years ago, also I believe in the spring.

HOODED CROW—visits the island occasionally, but cannot be said to occur every winter. It is in severe cold that it is mostly seen. Mr. Knox has well shown the peculiarities of its distribution in Sussex, where its place is supplied by the Carrion Crow in the western parts of the county, and this accords strikingly with the rarity of the Hooded Crow with us.

GREAT BLACK WOODPECKER—but one instance is known of its occurrence in the Isle of Wight, where it was shot, in the garden of Shanklin parsonage. (*Zool.* p. 915.)

Our other two woodpeckers are only known as occasional migrants from the mainland, and they mostly occur in winter. There is less to surprise us in this since the GREAT BLACK WOODPECKER is observed in England as a rare visitor only; and some even of the American species have been obtained on this side the Atlantic, arguing a power of flight not easily credited by those who have noticed the uncertain wavering action of the green woodpecker when on the wing.

It is remarkable that the NUTHATCH should not yet have been observed in the Isle of Wight, since it is a bird common in Sussex, and considered by Mr. Knox as partially *migratory*.

HOOPOE—a bird of not unfrequent occurrence in spring and autumn; scarcely a year passes without one or more being obtained.

BEE-EATER—was shot on Headon Hill Warren, near Freshwater, in June 1855. (See *Zool.* p. 4870.)

STOCK DOVE—is a very rare winter visitor, that probably come to us from Sussex, or the south-east counties, where it breeds. (See Knox, p. 220, 3rd edition.)

ROCK DOVE—like the former, is only known as a rare winter visitor. Two were obtained at Freshwater in Nov. 1857.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE—has been shot twice only, so far as I can ascertain; one was killed near Newchurch and another in the neighbourhood of Freshwater, both single birds, and probably stragglers from the mainland.

QUAIL—is occasionally obtained in late autumn or winter. One was shot in Whitefield Wood, Jan. 1859, another in March 1858, at the other extremity of the island. A single instance only is known of its having nested in the Isle of Wight.

STONE CURLEW or NORFOLK PLOVER—has bred once only; but the bird is occasionally obtained as a winter visitor. One was shot at Bembridge late in the autumn of 1857, and at Freshwater in the winter of 1854. This bird presents a good example upon a small scale of the migration from east to west. Like the tree sparrow and stock dove, it is only in winter or the periods of migration that it occurs in the west

of England and in Ireland. It is in Devon and Cornwall the chiffchaff and blackcap have also been known to linger through the winter.

DOTTERELL—has been several times obtained on Freshwater Down in September; two were seen and one shot Sept. 8, 1858. On its spring passage the dotterell has been less often seen. Mr. Rogers met with it on Freshwater Down at the beginning of May, and Mr. Bury flushed a solitary bird on Shanklin Down, May 23, 1845.

TURNSTONE—occurs but rarely in spring and autumn, and has also been obtained in winter.

SQUACCO HERON.—A single bird of this scarce "British" species, was shot near the old church sea mark, St. Helen's, May 19, 1858, and was carried, still living, to Mr. Beazley, the Ryde birdstuffer, in whose hands I saw it; the bird has now passed into the collection of Mr. Borrer, of Cowfold. This heron is indigenous to the south-east of Europe, occurring in England generally in May.

BITTERN—occurs nearly every year, either in late autumn or winter.

LITTLE BITTERN—has once been obtained. (See *Zool.* 926.)

SPOONBILL.—Mr. Bury informs me that one was shot near Yarmouth in 1845, and came under the notice of Sir John Simeon.

BLACK-WINGED STILT—is inserted upon the authority of Mr. Bury, who considers he had sufficient evidence to vouch for its having once occurred at Yarmouth.

RUFF—is exceedingly rare, not more than two or three of these birds have been obtained.

GREAT SNIPE—is also one of our rarest visitors.

CURLEW SANDPIPER—has occurred a few times in autumn; it has been twice shot at Bembridge.

PURPLE SANDPIPER—is very uncommon; it has only been noticed once at Bembridge, oftener upon the rocky shores of the Undercliff, generally in late autumn.

SPOTTED CRAKE.—Not yet ascertained to nest in the island, though likely enough a pair or two may linger in such favourable localities as the thick jungle of bog plants which cover the Rookley Wilderness, or among the swampy willow-

beds that abound in Sandown Level. It is as a rare winter visitor, or at the two periods of migration, that the Spotted Rail has hitherto been obtained.

PHALAROPE — is occasionally seen in late autumn upon both fresh and salt water. Mr. Bury shot one so early as the beginning of September, 1857.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE — is probably not rare when the weather is sufficiently cold to drive it so far south.

BERNICLE GOOSE — is very seldom seen. Two are recorded to have been shot in Freshwater Bay, in March 1858, during a severe frost. (See *Zool.* 6097.) Mr. Bury mentions a specimen which he had seen in the possession of Mr. Butler.

CANADA GOOSE. — Four Canada Geese occurred at the same time with the Bernicles, but whether these were genuine Americans or British-born birds it is impossible to say. They seem to have been remarkably tame, since six geese were shot out of a party of eight.

HOOPEE — resorts to the mud creeks of the Solent, but only in hard weather. Curiously enough, Bewick's Swan has not yet been ascertained to visit the Isle of Wight.

SHOVELLER, GADWALL, GARGANEY. — All three irregular in their appearance, but are known to occur, especially in protracted frost.

EIDER DUCK. — In the hard weather of February and March 1855, the Eider was among the numerous ducks that visited Freshwater. Two others are recorded by Mr. Bury as having been shot at Newtown. (*Zool.* 973.) A female was obtained by Mr. Rogers, Dec. 19, 1859.

LONG-TAILED DUCK. — Two instances of its occurrence are mentioned by Mr. Bury. (*Zool.* 973.)

GOLDEN-EYE — visits our coast in severe weather only. The adults are very scarce.

SMEW and GOOSANDER — are both very rare.

RED-NECKED GREBE — has several times been obtained near Yarmouth. Mr. Rogers has known of two at Freshwater within the last few years. It has also occurred at Bembridge and Sandown.

EARED GREBE. — A bird long sought among the numerous Dusky Grebes that frequent our shores in winter, but the

only authentic specimen yet found is one that was killed off Sea View in Dec. 1858, in company with a young Horned Grebe that fell to the same shot. Besides the shape of the beak, which is chiefly relied upon as a mark of distinction, it may be mentioned that the upper plumage is of a decidedly blacker hue. In the immature Eared Grebe the white on the wing commences about the seventh instead of the twelfth quill, and in the present specimen there is a strong blackish mark on the fore neck instead of the light ash tinge visible on the Horned Grebe. I am indebted to Mr. Beazley, the bird-stuffer at Ryde, to whom the bird was taken for preservation, for the opportunity of carefully examining it.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER — has been several times shot at Bembridge and in other localities, but can hardly be considered a regular winter visitant. Of late years I have found all three loons less plentiful and more wary than they used to be.

BRUNNICH'S GUILLEMOT — was obtained by Mr. Rogers, at Freshwater, Feb. 7, 1860.

RINGED GUILLEMOT — has been ascertained by Mr. Bond to have been twice shot at Freshwater in 1856 and 1857; a third specimen was obtained off Niton in June 1854, as I am informed by Mr. H. S. Leeson, of Bonchurch.

BLACK GUILLEMOT — one shot off Yarmouth in 1853 or 1854 has come under the notice of Mr. Bond during one of his visits to Freshwater.

LITTLE AUK — has several times occurred. Mr. Leeson obtained one off Ventnor in the winter of 1855, and recently a Little Auk was picked up on the shore near Sea View.

NORTHERN PUFFIN.—Mr. Bond obtained at Freshwater, in 1856, a Puffin which he recognised as different from the common species. After comparing it with Leach's original specimen of *Mormon glacialis* in the British Museum, Mr. Bond feels satisfied that his bird is the same: there is, however, some doubt as to whether the Northern Puffin is entitled to rank as a distinct species.

SANDWICH TERN — I shot near the "No-man" Buoy at the early date of April 13, 1858, and again off Bembridge, September, 1859.

COMMON and ARCTIC TERNS — visit us but rarely, though

hardly an autumn passes without some of these birds being noticed. In October, 1858, Terns were unusually plentiful, and a large flock remained at Spithead for many days. All the specimens obtained upon this occasion belonged to the Common Tern, and only one was in adult plumage. A few Terns remained until quite the end of October.

I have seen the Arctic Tern once only at Bembridge, when a bird of this species was picked up dead in October 1857; yet it is said to be the more common of the two upon the south coast.

LITTLE TERN — has once been noticed at Bembridge. At the beginning of May a few of these fairy little creatures were seen one Sunday morning flitting about the end of the Shingle Point. At Freshwater Mr. Rogers obtained a Little Tern in the spring of 1855.

BLACK TERN — is very seldom seen. One adult and two young birds appeared in Brading Harbour in September 1858, and another immature specimen was, about the same time, shot at Spithead, while *sitting upon the water* in company with a number of Common Terns, among which it was conspicuous from its darker colour. The Black Tern has also been recently obtained at Ryde and Freshwater.

LITTLE GULL. — Mr. Bond has seen a specimen of this bird which was shot by Mr. Murrow, of the Royal Hotel, Freshwater. The date was not recorded.

MASKED GULL — rests upon the authority of Mr. Bury, who once obtained a specimen at Shanklin in March, 1845. (*Zool.* 976.) Some further interesting remarks upon the Masked Gull will be found in Mr. Bury's Notes upon the British Birds which he observed in Spain, where the present bird appears to be more plentiful than the Black-headed Gull, if it does not rather occupy its place. (See *Zool.* pp. 1963 and 2457.)

GLAUCOUS GULL — has very seldom been driven to so southern a locality as the Isle of Wight.

COMMON or GREAT SKUA. — I am indebted to Mr. Bond for the information that one of these birds has been recently obtained at Freshwater.

POMARINE SKUA — has once occurred. (See *Zool.* 978.)

RICHARDSON'S SKUA.—The bird alluded to by Mr. Bury as occasionally noticed in the Solent belongs probably to this species. It is, however, far from common, since during many years' cruising in these waters a SKUA has only once come under my notice. Early in September 1856, I saw a small dark bird in pursuit of some Black-headed Gulls; and this bird was also noticed by several other persons, by whom the sight of a "*Black Gull*" was evidently thought a most extraordinary sight.

MANX SHEARWATER.—A single bird was many years ago obtained at Yarmouth. (*Zool.* iii. p. 978.)

FORK-TAILED PETREL—has been picked up more than once at Freshwater. Mr. Rogers had one brought to him in 1857.

STORM PETREL—is rather more frequently obtained than the former.

There have thus been enumerated 220 birds as captured in the Isle of Wight. It will not be uninteresting to compare the numbers obtained respectively in Great Britain and Sussex, which show the following results:—

	Raptores.	Insectores.	Rasores.	Grallatores.	Natatores.	Total.
Great Britain has -	34	126	18	70	106	354
Sussex - - -	22	100	9	52	66	249
Isle of Wight - -	18	94	8	37	63	220

And, considering the small extent of our district and the less favourable nature of its shores, it will be seen that the Isle of Wight has produced a proportion fairly equal to its dimensions. Sussex claims 40 species not yet ascertained to have visited the Isle of Wight; but of these the *Little Stint*, *Kentish Plover*, *Nuthatch*, *Mealy Redpole*, and some others may well be expected to occur with us.

As contrasted with Sussex, the most striking deficiencies on our part consist in the far smaller number of wading birds, owing, no doubt, to the nature of the coast line, which is singularly wanting in those long banks of shingle so attractive to the various Sandpipers (and which are also

the favourite breeding haunts of Terns). The great scarcity of Woodpeckers and large birds of prey depends, in the same manner, upon the limited extent of wood, while something should, no doubt, be allowed for the influence of man.

On the other hand, ten birds have been noticed in the Isle of Wight which are yet strangers to the Sussex list.

Woodchat	Canada Goose
Crested Titmouse	Brunnich's Guillemot
White-winged Crossbill	Black Guillemot
Black Woodpecker	Northern Puffin
Squacco Heron	Masked Gull

To these may be added the Chough, so long as it continues to escape the fate which has befallen it at the Cliffs of Beachy Head.

REPTILES.*

By A. G. More, F. L. S.

SUB-ORDER I.—*Sauria* (the Lizards, &c.).

VIVIPAROUS or COMMON LIZARD—is abundant, especially in the sandy districts.

SUB-ORDER II.—*Saurophidia* (the Blindworms, &c.).

BLIND WORM or SLOW WORM—is frequent.

SUB-ORDER III.—*Ophidia* (the true Serpents).

RINGED SNAKE—is not uncommon. Unlike the other land reptiles found in the Isle of Wight, its young are produced from eggs left to hatch by the warmth of the sun, or in some manure heap.

COMMON VIPER or ADDER.—This, the only poisonous British reptile, is very plentiful, and in the month of April may be constantly met with basking upon the footpaths or beneath the shelter of some friendly bush. Varieties of many different shades of colour have been observed, including the red viper, which is now supposed to be the usual state of the young.

* For further information, reference may be made to Prof. Bell's excellent "History of British Reptiles."

From observations published in the "Zoologist" for 1849, it would appear that discredit has been perhaps too hastily cast upon the common story of the "Viper swallowing its young." Strange as this may sound, two instances are upon record when the young vipers have been seen to issue from the mouth of their dead parent, and in one case when alarmed, to retreat again into her throat. Almost exactly the same circumstance is related of the common lizard; and it will not be forgotten that these are both *viviparous* reptiles.

AMPHIBIA.

ORDER I.—*Anura* (those which are *tailless* in their perfect state).

The TOAD and COMMON FROG are abundant. Both lay their eggs in the water: the spawn of the *Frog* being deposited in a mass, while that of the *Toad* forms long chains entangled among aquatic plants. The transformations of the *tadpole* are very interesting: during its younger stages it breathes the air contained in water by means of external branched gills (*branchiæ*): these gills are first absorbed: the next change exhibits the two hind-legs, afterwards the two fore-legs appear, and the remnant of a tail is the last link which connects the tadpole with the perfect frog or toad,—henceforward an air-breathing reptile.

ORDER II.—*Urodela* (or those with a permanent tail).

WARTY NEWT—is not unfrequent, though far less common than either of the following. The newts frequent the water only in spring, being at other seasons often found upon land, where they conceal themselves in dark damp corners, in crevices under stones, &c.; when on land they are destitute of the high dorsal crest or fin which is so conspicuous in the males during the spawning time.

The SPOTTED EFT is very abundant, occurring during spring in almost every pond. The hind feet of the *male* are never perfectly palmate, but in the summer dress are separately bordered by a membrane adapted for swimming: the highly-developed dorsal fin is waved and spotted. The

female is very different, she has only a slight dorsal ridge, and the tail but little broader than usual in spring. She is scarcely at all spotted except upon the orange under parts; commonly a line of spots runs along the flank from the fore to the hind-legs, with a paler space above it. She is best distinguished from the female of the following by the longer toes and colour of a *paler yellowish* brown, and by being marked along the back with two narrow dark lines which are continued down the sides of the tail, nearly obliterated in the dark varieties.

As mentioned in another place, a number of efts were once taken from the crop of a kestrel.

The WEB-FOOTED or PIN-TAILED EFT is nearly as common as the former species. The *male* is in its spring attire a very beautiful creature. The dark and complete web of its hind-feet is plainly seen as it swims near the surface of the water, the dorsal fin is but slightly developed and is *not spotted*, the underside is usually plain white; characters sufficient to distinguish the species, to say nothing of the projecting filament which terminates the tail, and the structural differences which have been pointed out by many able naturalists.

The *female* is above of a *darkish brown*, closely mottled on the sides with confluent spots (sometimes almost plain), and there are *two dark sub-marginal* lines of spots at the *top and bottom* of the tail, which terminates in a very *short thread*. A few spots are sometimes seen upon the underside, which is also occasionally tinged with orange. I have not found any spots on the chin.

There is no web or fin upon the hind-feet of the females of either species; the toes of the web-footed are distinctly shorter than those in the spotted eft. The tadpole of all the newts is longer and narrower than that of the frog and toad: and the stages of transformation follow each other in a different order, inasmuch as with the newts the fore-legs are the first to appear, then the hind-legs, and the branchiæ (or gills) are absorbed the last of all. The eggs are deposited singly, being attached to, or even folded in aquatic plants.

FRESHWATER FISHES.

By A. G. More, F.L.S.

Only the few species which inhabit our streams and ponds can be given here. Too little has yet been done towards the exploration of the Marine Fauna of the Isle of Wight to warrant any attempt at completeness in the Order.

From its deficiency in any extensive sheets of water and considerable streams, the freshwater fishes of the island, like the water-plants, exhibit but little variety.

FAMILY I.—*Loricati* (the mail-headed fishes).

RIVER BULL-HEAD or MILLER'S THUMB—occurs in the East Yar, and has also been observed in a small pond at Bonchurch. Mr. Hambrough has found it at Carisbrook.

THREE-SPINED STICKLE-BACK.—Only that called the SMOOTH-TAILED, be it variety or species, has been found in Sandown Level. It occurs also in the Medina, and is not averse to brackish water.

Dr. Martin records the ROUGH-TAILED STICKLE-BACK in the Undercliff.

TEN-SPINED STICKLE-BACK—occurs in company with the preceding ; it is abundant in Sandown Marshes.

FAMILY II.—*Cyprinidæ* (the Carps, &c.).

The CARP has succeeded where it has been introduced, but it is not a native. It occurs in the East Yar and in several ponds in the Undercliff.

TENCH—is rare ; it is believed still to exist in the moat round Sandown Fort.

RUDD—has been obtained in the stream near Alverstone by Mr. Hambrough.

ROACH and DACE—occur plentifully in the East Yar (or main river), and in the Medina, &c.

FAMILY III.—*Salmonidæ* (the Trouts, &c.).

COMMON TROUT—occurs in a few streams and ponds in "West Medina." It is said to have been introduced in the East Yar, where it is still found, but very sparingly.

OBS.—The *Salmon Trout* and a species of *Shad* (probably the *Twaite*), appear with us in the character of sea-fish, being occasionally captured within a short distance from the shore. It is believed that the *Bull Trout* (an inhabitant of the Hampshire rivers) and the *Salmon* have been taken in the same way. The *Shad* has frequently been caught upon a mackerel line. The *River Lamprey* is said to be sometimes taken in the same net with sprats.

The *Flounder* ascends the Yar for a considerable distance. The *Plaice* also occasionally occurs in fresh water.

FAMILY IV.—*Anguillidæ* (the Eels, &c.).

SHARP-NOSED EEL and BROAD-NOSED EEL—have both been ascertained to occur. They are often taken abundantly in the small pools which are left at low water among the mud-flats of Brading Harbour.

Several of the commonest English species appear wanting. Neither Pike, Perch, Gudgeon, Chub or Minnow have been found to inhabit the Isle of Wight.

ENTOMOLOGY.

COLEOPTERA.

By G. Guyon, M.E.S.

The Isle of Wight is exceedingly rich in species belonging to the order *Coleoptera* or *Beetles*, which from their great variety of form, the brilliant colouring of many, and the ease with which they are preserved, have long been, next to the *Lepidoptera*, the favourite study of Entomologists. A very large proportion of those found in Great Britain may be obtained in the island, and two or three have not, to our knowledge, been met with elsewhere in England. We are indebted to Mr. F. Smith, of the British Museum, for some of the names in the following list, from which generally distributed species are excluded.

Of the group termed ground-beetles, several local and rare species occur; they are predatory in their habits, and are usually met with running on the ground or lurking beneath stones, &c.

CICINDELETÆ.

Cicindela germanica. At Blackgang ; running swiftly among the grass when the sun is shining.

CARABICI.

Drypta emarginata. On a clay bank at Luccombe. The species had not been taken in England for thirty years, when in 1845 it occurred in this locality, which continues to furnish specimens in the spring and autumn.

Dromius Sigma. A marked variety is frequent in the shingle at Steephill Cove.

obsкуро-guttatus. Has been taken near Sandown, and Ryde.

Tarus axillaris. At Freshwater.

Polystichus fasciolatus. This rare species has been taken near Sandown, in April.

Dyschirius æneus. Luccombe, a slender variety.

Calosoma Sycophanta. A specimen of this brilliant insect has been taken at Bonchurch ; although occasionally captured on the English coast, its claims to be accounted British are but slender, as in its native countries it inhabits forests, where it preys on the larvæ of Lepidoptera.

Panagæus quadripustulatus. Taken near Sandown.

Badister humeralis. In moss ; Shanklin Copse.

Chlænium Schrankii. Several specimens of this fine addition to the British list have been taken near Luccombe Chine.

Pogonus chalceus. On mud ; Ryde.

Synuchus vivalis. Damp places.

Anchomenus oblongus. Marshy places ; Ryde and Luccombe.

Pterostichus picimanus. Under stones ; Steephill Cove.

inæqualis. Cowes, Ryde, and Sandown.

Amara similata. Common on paths ; Ventnor, &c.

lucida. Sandy places.

strenua. The only British locality known for this species is the Isle of Wight. It is usually abundant under rejectamenta, &c., in the marshes about Ryde in the spring.

plebeia. Roads and paths ; Ventnor.

fulva. Abundant about Ryde, where it conceals itself in sandy places beneath stones.

convexiuscula. With the last.

Harpalus obscurus. Under stones ; Ventnor, &c.

azureus. Near the Culvers ; Ventnor, &c.

punctatulus. Sandown and Ventnor.

puncticollis. Abundant under stones ; Ventnor.

attenuatus. Sandy places ; Luccombe, &c.

discoideus. Sandy places.

cupreus. A scarce species ; Ryde, Sandown, and Cowes.

depressus. Plentiful under stones ; Ventnor.

Stenolophus Skrimshiranus. Castle Cove, Niton.

flavicollis. Near Luccombe ; in the spring.

S. luridus. In moss.

exiguus. Has been found near Luccombe.

Trechus lapidosus. In shingle ; Ventnor and Steephill.

Aëpus marinus. Has been taken at Ventnor.

Robinii.

Lymnæum nigropiceum. Under seaweed ; Steephill Cove, &c. This species is not known to occur in any part of Great Britain out of the island, and the only foreign locality recorded is the Crimea.

Bembidium laterale. Bembridge ; under sea-weed and burrowing in the sand between tide marks.

bistriatum. Near Luccombe.

quinquestriatum. Sandy places ; near Luccombe.

saxatile. A variety at Luccombe Chine and Blackgang.

The aquatic species have been little attended to, few localities in the island being suited to their habits.

GYRINITES.

Gyrinus Urinator. Not uncommon in the pond at St. Lawrence.

HYDROPHILI.

Cyllidium seminudum. Marshy places.

SILPHALES.

Most of this group feed on carrion, the smaller species occurring in moss, &c.

Necrophorus mortuorum. In carcasses, &c.

Silpha sinuata. Ditto.

opaca. Ditto.

tristis. Ditto ; Ryde.

nigrita. Ditto ; Ryde, &c.

• *Colon brunneus*.

Catops varicornis. A local species, occurring as above.

Hydnobius punctatissimus. Moss and by sweeping.

Anisotoma dubia. Ditto.

calcarata. Ditto ; Niton.

Colensis dentipes.

Amphicyllus Globus. Moss ; Shanklin, &c.

Agathidium seminudum. Ditto.

laevigatum. Ditto ; Sandown.

SCYDMÆNIDES.

Cephennium thoracicum. Moss ; Shanklin.

PSELAPHI.

Pselaphus Heisii. Moss ; Shanklin and Ventnor

Bryaxis fossulatus. Moss.

Juncorum. Moss.

Bythinus puncticollis. Moss.

bulbifer. Moss.

Curtisii. Moss ; Shanklin Copse.

securiger. Moss ; Shanklin Copse.

STAPHILINI.

Several scarce species of this long neglected group are found in the island, including

Ocypus Pedator.

Philonthus sericeus.

Lithocaris castanea. A scarce species ; in shingle ; Steephill Cove.

Pæderus fuscipes. Ryde.

Dianoüs cærulescens. On cliff below Steephill.

Bledius arenarius. Luccombe.

Acidota cruentata.

HISTERINI.

Hister 4-maculatus. Sandy places ; Ryde.

2-maculatus. Ventnor.

Saprinus maritimus. Ryde.

BYRRHII.

Simplocaria semistriata. Sandy places.

Limnichus pygmæus. Luccombe.

GEORYSSII.

Georyssus pygmæus. Luccombe.

PARNIDÆ.

Elmis nitens. In stream below Steephill &c.; under stones.

SCARABÆIDES.

Onthophagus Cænobita. Paths ; Pelham Wood, &c.

LAMPYRIDES.

Drilus flavescens. This species breeds in snails ; the male is not uncommon about Ryde, the female, which is a fleshy-looking grub, is very rare everywhere.

MELYRIDES.

Malachius marginellus. Abundant in Steephill Cove.

Dasytes nobilis. On flowers ; abundant everywhere.

PTINIORES.

Ochina Hederæ. About ivy ; Pelham Wood, Ryde, &c.

TENEBRIONITES.

Phaleria cadaverina. Sandy places ; Sandown.

Hypophlæus depressus. Under bark.

ANTHICIDES.

Notoxus Monoceros. Sandy places ; Ryde and Sandown.

- Anthicus humilis*. Damp places ; Ryde.
instabilis. In shingle ; Steephill Cove.
angustatus. In shingle ; Steephill water-fall.

MELOÏDÆ.

- Lytta (Cantharis) vesicatoria*. Sometimes abundant in July on privet at Newchurch ; it is the " Blister Beetle " or " Spanish Fly."

CEDEMERITÆ.

- Oncomera femorata*. Not uncommon about ivy, Ventnor ; it also comes to trees that are sugared for Lepidoptera.

SALPINGIDES.

- Salpingus viridipennis*. Under bark ; Steephill.

CURCULIONITES.

This group, being composed of vegetable feeders, is to be sought for on various plants ; its members are furnished with a rostrum or beak, and are often known by the name of weevils.

- Bruchus Loti*. Sandown and Cowes ; on *Lathyrus pratensis*.
Rhynchites conicus. Pelham Wood.
Betuleti. Shambler's Copse, Ryde ; on hazel.
Apion Hookeri. Pelham Wood, &c.
Sorbi. Pelham Wood.
Ramphus flavicornis. Whitethorn ; Pelham Wood.
Cleonus sulcirostris. Luccombe.
Trachyphlæus scaber. Sandown, &c.
fissirostris. Newchurch.
Waltoni. In moss, Newchurch ; not uncommon.
scabriculus. Sandown.
alternans. Chalky places on cliff ; Ventnor.
spinimanus. With the last.
Otiorhynchus Ligustici. This scarce species is not unfrequently taken near Luccombe among grass or by sweeping.
raucus. Sandown.
Rhinocyllus latirostris. On thistles.
Grypoidius Equiseti. On mare's-tail ; Shanklin, &c.
Tychius flavicollis.
Schneideri. Plentiful about the cliffs ; Ventnor.
Sibynes Arenariæ. Blackgang at side of Chine.
Orchestes Iota. Newchurch.
Orthochaetes setiger. Ventnor, Steephill Cove, and St. Lawrence.
Baridius T—album. Grassy places ; Ryde.
 analis. This rare species has been taken by sweeping near Ryde.
Cæliodes ruber. Newchurch.
rubicundus. Newchurch.
subrufus. Newchurch.
Mononychus Pseudacori. This local species is found in the seed-pods of *Iris foetidissima* in autumn ; it is abundant about Ventnor, &c.
Acalles misellus. The Furzebrake, Ventnor.

Bagoüs petrosus. This local insect is found together with the three following in Newchurch Marshes; they are often difficult of detection from being coated with mud.

Frit.

tempestivus.

lutulosus. One specimen.

Pachyrhinus 4-nodosus. Very rare; in moss from Newchurch.

Ceutorhynchus Chrysanthemi. Pelham Wood.

Asperifoliarum. Pelham Wood.

horridus.

Amalus Scortillum. Newchurch.

Poophagus Sisymbrii. On aquatic plants; Ventnor.

Orobitis cyaneus. Pelham Wood and Blackgang.

Gymnætron pascuorum. Grassy places; Ventnor, &c.

labilis. With the last.

Rostellum. Ventnor.

Miarus plantarum. Pelham Wood.

Campanulæ.

Mecinus circulatus. About the cliffs; Ventnor.

Phlæophagus æneopiceus. In stump of elder; Ventnor.

Bostrichus bispinus. In dead stems of *Clematis Vitalba*; Ventnor, &c.

CHRYSOMELINÆ.

Cryptocephalus Moræi. Ryde, &c.

bilineatus. Ventnor.

Chrysomela distinguenda.

Banksii. Grassy places about Ventnor.

gættingensis. In a field at St. Lawrence.

Beccabungæ. On watercress; Ventnor.

Haltica mercurialis. Pelham Wood, and Luccombe Copse.

consobrina. Abundant on Charlock, &c.; at one time *unique* in Mr. Curtis's cabinet.

antennata. On *Reseda luteola*; Ventnor.

atrocærulea. Pelham Wood, &c.

Pseudacori. Meadows; Ryde.

herbigrada. Downs and cliffs; Ventnor.

rustica. On thistles, &c.; Ventnor.

obtusata. About the downs; Ventnor.

fuscipes. Plentiful on mallows; Ventnor, &c.

Longitarsus dorsalis. Not uncommon on *Senecio Jacobæa*; Ventnor.

Psylliodes Dulcamaræ. On sunny walls in spring; Ventnor.

picina.

Plectroscelis Sahlbergi. Newchurch.

Mniophila Muscorum. Abundant in moss; Shanklin Copse.

COCCINELLIDÆ.

Halycia 16-guttata.

Hyperaspis reppensis. Blackgang.

- Scymnus 2-pustulatus*. Ventnor; by sweeping.
4-pustulatus. Under bark of rail; Shanklin Chine.
 analis. Moss.
Corylophus Cassidoides. Furzebrake; Ventnor.
Clambus Enshamensis. In debris of rushes, &c.; Luccombe.
Armadillus. Sandown.
Orthoperus Punctum.

LATHRIDII.

- Lathridius elongatus*. Moss; Newchurch.

HYMENOPTERA.

By F. Smith, of the British Museum.

There is not, probably, in this country a line of coast of the same extent so rich in rare species of Hymenopterous Insects as that which lies between Culver Cliff and Blackgang Chine; many of the insects found there are scattered over other parts of the island, but the sandy bays, sunny slopes, and undulating downs which characterise the Undercliff, have attracted most, if not all the rarities to their charming haunts.

Of the FOSSORIAL group, popularly known as SAND WASPS, a few of great rarity may be first mentioned.

Pompilus rufipes. Not uncommon in Sandown Bay; July and August.

plumbeus. Along the whole line of coast at the back of the island; July.

Ammophila lularia. Sandown Bay; August and September.

Tachytes unicolor. Luccombe Chine; July and August.

Astata Boops. Ventnor; and the Land-slip, Bonchurch; July and August.

Cerceris ornata. Ventnor, Sandown Bay.

Philanthus Triangulum. Sandown Bay, and Niton. The former locality appears to be the only one where this fine insect has occurred in numbers, it stores up hive-bees as food for its young to feed upon. It was first discovered to be a native of this country by Mr. Curtis, who found it at the back of the island. It appears about the middle of July.

Myrmecina Latreillii. This small species of ant was first discovered by Mr. Curtis, we believe, near Ventnor; taken in August and September.

Mutilla Ehippium. A rare species of solitary ant. Sandown Bay; August and September.

Methoca ichneumonoides. Very rare. First found in England by Mr. Curtis at Blackgang Chine; August. Some of the rarest species of our native bees are found in the island, one or two having been first discovered there.

ANDRENIDÆ.

This family is composed of short-tongued bees: such are first seen in spring, attached to the catkins of willows &c.; they are of common occurrence, and burrow in banks, supplying their young with a store of pollen and honey: there are a few summer species; those named are extremely local insects.

Halictus xanthopus. Ventnor; September.

lævis. Very rare. Ventnor; September; no other locality known.

Andrena simillima. First discovered by Mr. F. Smith, at the Land-slip; August.

Dasypoda hirtipes. This elegant species is plentiful in Sandown Bay, during the latter part of July and beginning of August; a very local insect.

APIDÆ.

Composed of those species of bees which have the tongue elongate and folded in the middle, in some species longer than the body of the insect.

Panurgus calcaratus. Extremely local, found at Luccombe Chine; August.

Megachile maritima. A leaf-cutter bee. These bees line the tube in which they form their cells, with pieces of the leaves of various trees, selecting the rose, laburnum, willows, &c.; this species is local, but is plentiful in Sandown Bay; July and August.

Osmia xanthomelana. A rare species. Sandown Bay; June.

spinulosa. Local. The Land-slip, Bonchurch; July and August.

Cœlioxys Vectis. First discovered at Ventnor by Mr. Curtis; also found at Blackgang Chine, and in Sandown Bay. This bee deposits its eggs on the food stored up by *Megachile maritima*, and belongs to the division called Cuckoo Bees, which never form their own burrows or store up food for their young.

Nomada varia. This is a species which is extremely local, and belongs to a genus popularly termed *Wasp Bees*, from their bearing a close resemblance to small wasps; they are Cuckoo Bees, and deposit their eggs in the nests of species of the genus *Halictus* and *Andrena*; occurs plentifully in Sandown Bay during July and August.

Saropoda bimaculata. A very local species, plentiful in Sandown Bay in July and August; it burrows in the cliffs in great numbers.

Many universally distributed species are found besides those enumerated, probably four-fifths of the entire number found in England; all the species given here are very local, and most of them of great variety. There are twenty-two species of humble-bee known in Britain; of these, seventeen occur in the Isle of Wight.

CHALCIDIDÆ.

<i>Isosoma cornutum</i> Wlk.	<i>Eutelus elevatus</i> Wlk.
<i>fulvicolle</i> Wlk.	<i>semotus</i> Wlk.
<i>Systole albipennis</i> Wlk.	<i>Pteromalus Discus</i> Wlk.
<i>Decatoma mellea</i> Wlk.	<i>apertus</i> Wlk.
<i>Aspilus</i> Wlk.	<i>curtus</i> Wlk.
<i>Callimome Geranii</i> Wlk.	<i>rufinus</i> Wlk.
<i>brevicauda</i> Wlk.	<i>Sisenna</i> Wlk.
<i>abdominalis.</i> Wlk.	<i>Tigasis</i> Wlk.
<i>leucopterus</i> Wlk.	<i>Boreas</i> Wlk.
<i>Lamprotatus maculipes</i> Wlk.	<i>Favorinus</i> Wlk.
<i>Micradelus rotundus</i> Wlk.	<i>Encyrtus Lindus</i> Wlk.
<i>Eunotus cretaceus</i> Wlk.	<i>Doris</i> Wlk.
<i>Platyterma teliforme</i> Wlk.	<i>Entedon Pangas</i> Wlk.
<i>prasinum</i> Wlk	<i>Eulophus florus</i> Wlk.
<i>Amblymerus iners</i> Wlk.	

PROCTOTRUPIDÆ Latr.

<i>Epyris niger</i> Westw.	<i>Telenomus Tritia</i> Wlk.
<i>Platygaster Crates</i> Wlk.	

The family Chalcididæ is composed of some of the most brilliantly coloured insects in the order Hymenoptera: they are of minute size, and usually brilliantly metallic; they are principally parasitic upon insects belonging to the orders Hymenoptera and Lepidoptera, not only upon such as provide suitable nutriment for their young brood, but also upon other parasites. Mr. Walker has described a great number of species in the "Entomological Magazine," &c.; to him I am indebted for the above list of rarities found in the island.

The species of PROCTOTRUPIDÆ are rare insects belonging to the extensive family of Ichneumons; the species of Proctotrupidæ are parasites upon other insects of various orders—Lepidoptera, Diptera, and even of Aphis.

LEPIDOPTERA.

Edited by A. G. More, F. L. S.

Here, as in botany, the use of Latin becomes indispensable, and no attempt will be made to give the popular English names, except in the case of the butterflies and hawk moths, which will also be treated at somewhat greater length, as they are more conspicuous, and receive a greater share of

attention from those who do not care to enter very profoundly into the subject. It is hoped that some of those who collect *Diurna* only will succeed in adding to the number of our butterflies; and for the purpose of aiding this object, the deficiency of the Isle of Wight, as compared with Hampshire, will be noticed, and mention made of the few species most likely to occur.

BUTTERFLIES.

Papilio Machaon (Swallow-tail). Was once seen on the wing near Calbourne by Dr. Bromfield: (see "Zool." for 1844, p. 397.). If not actually indigenous, it is quite possible this fine insect may occasionally fly across from the New Forest, where Dr. Bromfield describes it as "pretty plentiful, especially at Lymington." Several specimens were taken by the Rev. W. T. Bree, a little to the east of Yarmouth, and the insect was also seen by him in other parts of the island more than 50 years ago.

Leucophasia Sinapis (Wood White). Very local, and has occurred in the Combley and Haven Street Woods, in Quarr Copse, near Brading, &c.

Pieris Crataegi. (Black-veined White). A scarce insect with us, and appearing at uncertain intervals. It has been captured in Quarr Copse, and in the woods about Haven Street, by far the most extensive tract of woodland in the Isle of Wight, and the most promising for insects, though but little explored entomologically.

P. Brassicæ. (Large Garden-White).

P. Rapæ. (Small White).

P. Napi. (Green-veined white); with their varieties, are all three abundant.

Anthocharis Cardamines (Orange Tip) is common in May.

Gonepteryx Rhamni (Brimstone) is plentiful in most years; and the hibernated specimens are sure to be among the earliest Butterflies to greet the eye in a ramble at the beginning of spring.

Colias Edusa (Clouded Yellow) is very often abundant upon the Downs, and also in the clover fields, to which it resorts for the sake of the scent and honey of the blossoms; and is there equally lovely and conspicuous, whether clinging, itself like some brilliant flower, to the tall stems, or flying with a rapidity that fortunately often saves it from the net, while the less lucky collector incurs a sharp rebuke on the score of the farmer's trampled clover. *Colias Edusa* has occurred so early as the middle of June, and also in July, but very seldom. It is usually most abundant in August, and lasts until October; but there is no rule nor any definite period (septennial or otherwise) for its appearance. The beautiful variety (*Helice*) is generally obtained whenever the butterfly is numerous.

Colias Hyale (Pale Clouded Yellow) is very rare, and most of those taken occur in the same years when *C. Edusa* is abundant.

Argynnis Paphia, (Silver-washed Fritillary,) is common in woods, the dark variety of the female, so well known in the New Forest, has occurred on this side the Solent at Sea View.

A. Adippe is apparently scarce. It has been taken at Freshwater, and in Firestone Copse.

A. Aglaia (Dark green F.) is rather scarce. Mr. F. Bond reports it from Freshwater and Mr. Maitland from the Undercliff. Pan Common is another locality.

A. Euphrosyne (Pearl-bordered F.) is abundant in woods at the end of May.

A. Selene (Dark pearl-bordered F.) is far less common than the former. I have taken it on Pan Common; and it occurs also in Quarr Copse and elsewhere near Ryde. It makes its appearance a week or two later than *Euphrosyne*.

Melitæa Artemis (Greasy F.) is uncommon. It occurs in Quarr Copse, and in the Firestone and Haven Street woods : also on Pan Common near Sandown, &c.

M. Cinxia (Glanville F.) is locally abundant. Still found plentifully in Sandown Bay, and in the whole range of the Undercliff. Ashey, Yaverland, and Whippingham have also produced this interesting species.

Vanessa C. album is very scarce. It used to be not unfrequent at Freshwater, but has not been observed there lately. A few specimens were captured at Sandown, many years ago, by Miss Lucas.

Vanessa Urticæ (Small Tortoise-shell) is plentiful.

V. Antiopa (Camberwell Beauty) is very rare, but has occurred in different parts of the island.

V. Polychloros (Large Tortoise-shell) is generally rather common, frequenting gardens and hedge-row elms.

V. Io (Peacock) is plentiful.

V. Atalanta (Admiral) is also abundant, and is a rare glutton in attacking wall fruit in autumn.

V. Cardui (Painted Lady) is in most years very frequent, appearing throughout the summer.

Limenitis Sibylla (White Admiral.) I have seen specimens from Quarr Copse and from the Haven Street and Whitefield woods; and Dr. Bromfield appears to have noticed it in other localities.

Apatura Iris (Purple Emperor) is apparently very scarce. Mr. F. Bond has met with it near Freshwater : no doubt a further search in the Firestone and Combley woods will prove it to inhabit that district too. It has recently been taken in Whitefield Wood near Brading.

Arge Galathea (Marbled White, or Half-Mourner,) is common, and especially delights in the rough broken slopes on the sides of the Chalk Downs.

Satyrus Egeria (Speckled Wood) is abundant; one of the earliest of our Butterflies.

S. Megæra (Wall Butterfly) is very common. How often pursued by the tyro in mistake for a fritillary!

S. Semele (Grayling) abundant on all our Chalk Downs, &c.

S. Janira (Meadow Brown) superabundant.

S. Tithonus (Large Heath) abundant.

S. Hyperanthus (Ringlet) not unfrequent.

Chortobius Pamphilus (Small Heath) common.

Thecla Rubi (Green Hair-streak) not rare.

Thecla Quercus (Purple Hair-streak) is abundant in all the oak woods.

T. Betulæ. (Brown Hair-streak.) There is still preserved in the cabinet of a lady collector at Ryde a single specimen of this insect brought to her from that neighbourhood, probably taken in the Combley or Haven Street woods. The butterfly has more recently been taken in Quarr copse; and at Whippingham.

Polyommatus Phlæas (Small Copper) is plentiful.

Lycæna Ægon (Silver-studded Blue). Hampstead, near Yarmouth. Mr. W. D. Crotch.

Lycæna Agestis. Is not unfrequent upon the Downs, or near the Chalk.

L. Alexis (Common Blue) is very plentiful.

L. Adonis (Clifden Blue) is found upon our Chalk Downs in many places, but is not so common as the next: a few appear in June, but the chief brood comes out in August.

L. Corydon (Chalk-hill Blue) is abundant on the Downs, flying in company with the former: but it has no early brood.

L. Alsus (Little Blue) is plentiful in the Landslip among the dwarf hazels in the roughest rocky ground: it has also occurred in Sandown Bay and at Freshwater.

L. Argiolus (Holly Blue) is rather uncommon, but occurs generally.

Nemeobius Lucina (Burgundy or little Fritillary) occurs in several of the woods near Ryde. I have taken it in Quarr Copse.

Syrichthus Alveolus (Grizzled Skipper) occurs near Ryde, in Quarr Copse, &c.; and has also been taken in Sandown Bay and on Bembridge Down.

Thanaos Tages (Dingy Skipper) is not unfrequent.

Hesperia Sylvanus (Large Skipper) is plentiful.

H. Linea (Small Skipper) is nearly as common.

It will thus be seen that the Isle of Wight has already yielded fifty out of the sixty-four British butterflies. It is hardly to be supposed many more species remain undiscovered in so conspicuous a family, though *A. Lathonia*, *H. Comma*, and perhaps the other Hampshire kinds will be found.

Hampshire produces five butterflies not yet ascertained to occur in the Isle of Wight, viz :—

Pieris Daplidice

Argynnis Lathonia

H. Paniscus

Melitæa Athalia

Hesperia Comma

the last recently taken in the New Forest. Any one of these might well be found in the Isle of Wight; and four others approach us sufficiently to render their discovery here not impossible. The *Lulworth Skipper* might well turn up in one of the sheltered coves of the Undercliff; and the scarce *Lycæna Acis*, long ago reported from Hampshire and Dorset, has more recently been taken on the oolite hills of the Cotswolds, whose soil and vegetation are closely analogous to that of our Downs. *Thecla W. album* and *Melitæa Athalia* should also be looked for, as both have been found in Sussex.

SPHINGES, OR HAWK MOTHS.

Smerinthus ocellatus (Eyed Hawk) has occurred at Bembridge, Ryde, &c., but is uncommon.

S. Populi (Poplar hawk) is not unfrequent.

S. Tiliæ. (Lime hawk.) Bembridge is the only locality that can be given, though the moth is probably not very scarce.

Acherontia Atropos (Death's Head) has apparently become more common of late years. In the autumn of 1858 this fine insect was unusually plentiful, and is to be obtained without difficulty every year.

Sphinx Convolvuli. (Convolvulus Hawk). Scarcely a year passes without some being taken, and it is occasionally even abundant.

S. Ligustri (Privet Hawk) is the commonest of the true Sphingina, and generally plentiful.

Deilephila Galii. (Madder Hawk.) From a remark of Dr. Bromfield's in the "Zoologist," it would appear that this handsome insect had been ascertained by him to inhabit the island. Four larvæ and two imagos were taken by Mr. Rogers at Freshwater in 1859.

D. lineata. (Rayed Hawk.) Two instances of the occurrence of this rare species are recorded by Dr. Bromfield in the "Zoologist," pp. 803 and 1444. Mr. Maitland also mentions its having been twice taken in the Undercliff. A specimen occurred at Bembridge, May 21, 1860.

Chærocampa Porcellus (Small Elephant) has been taken at Bembridge and on St. Helen's Spit, as well as in the Undercliff, where it is stated to be rare.

Ch. Elpenor. (Large Elephant.) Both larva and perfect insect have occurred, though rarely, at Bembridge: and the insect has also been taken at Freshwater.

Ch. Nerii. (Oleander Hawk). The occurrence of a specimen at Sandown in 1834 is recorded by Dr. Bromfield, ("Zool." 804.) who seems to have shared the opinion that this insect is not indigenous to Britain, but crosses occasionally from the opposite side of the Channel. More recently another example of *C. Nerii* has occurred at Freshwater.

Macroglossa Stellatarum (Humming-bird Hawk) is abundant.

Macroglossa Bombyliiformis (Narrow-bordered Bee-Hawk) has occurred near Osborne, as I am informed by Mr. J. Pisto.

Sesia tipuliformis has occurred in gardens at Bembridge.

S. ichneumoniformis has been taken in Sandown Bay and at Freshwater.

S. bembeciformis has been captured at Freshwater by Mr. F. Bond.

Anthrocera Trifolii (Five-spot Burnet) is far less common than the following species, appearing about a fortnight earlier. It is abundant in Sandown Bay with *M. Cinxia*, and has also occurred near Ashey and Freshwater.

S. Filipendulæ (Six-spot Burnet) is with us most abundant, especially near the shore, and by its numbers often attracts notice from the least observant.

It will be remarked that neither of the Foresters (*Ino*) have been included in our list, though there is every reason to suppose that one, if not both, will be eventually found to inhabit the Isle of Wight. Nor has the broad-bordered Bee-Hawk been observed, likely as it is to flutter unheeded among the "Bugles," with which so many of our copses abound. *Ino Statice* and *Sesia apiformis* are mentioned as Hampshire insects by the Rev. W. H. Hawker, in the "Zoologist" for 1855, p. 4652.

For the remaining insects of the Lepidoptera it has been thought that a single list, containing the names of all that have been captured in the Isle of Wight, will prove the most useful to collectors. Any mention of special localities would occupy too much space, and would besides be as likely to mislead as not, so little being known of the distribution of the less conspicuous families; and the following catalogue being founded upon the exploration of three distant localities, all situated upon the coast. The interior of the island, and the fine and promising range of woods which border the stream above Wootton, have not yet met with the attention they certainly deserve, if we may judge from the large number of *Diurna* there obtained.

Our best acknowledgments are due to the several entomologists who have so kindly contributed their observations, and especially to Mr. F. Bond and Dr. Wallace, upon whose information this catalogue is founded, together with the list published (by Mr. Maitland) in Dr. Martin's "Under-cliff."

It is hoped that the indication of v. r. for very rare, and r. for rare, will be found serviceable to the proficients in the science. The tyro necessarily requires the mention of common species as well, and that is an additional reason for trying to give a complete list as far as to the end of the *Pyrales*. A few of the more interesting *Micro-Lepidoptera* are added upon the authority of Mr. Bond.

NOCTURNI or BOMBYCES.

ZEUZERA.	L. Aureola, r.	L. Auriflua.
Esculi, r.	Complanula.	L. Salicis.
COSSUS.	Complana.	Monacha.
Ligniperda.	Griseola.	ORGYIA.
HEPIALUS.	Stramineola, r.	Pudibunda.
Hectus.	Quadra, r.	Fascelina, r.
Lupulinus.	Rubricollis.	Antiqua.
Sylvinus.	EMYDIA.	TRICHIURA.
Velleda, r.	Cribrum, r.	Cratægi.
Humuli.	EUCHELIA.	PÆCILOCAMPA.
NOLA.	Jacobææ, r.	Populi, r.
Cuculatella.	EUTHEMONIA.	ERIOGASTER.
Cristulalis.	Russula.	Lanestris.
Strigula, r.	CHEILONIA.	BOMBYX.
Centonalis, r. r.	Caja.	Neustria.
NUDARIA.	Villica, r.	Rubi.
Mundana.	ARCTIA.	Quercus.
SETINA.	Fuliginosa.	Trifolii, r.
Irrorella, r.	Mendica.	ODONESTIS.
CALLIGENIA.	Lubricipes.	Potatoria.
Miniata.	Menthastri.	LASIOCAMPA.
LITHOSIA.	LIPARIS.	Quercifolia.
Mesomella.	Chrysorrhœa.	SATURNIA.
		Carpini.

GEOMETRÆ.

UROPTERYX,	EURYMENE.	ENNOMOS.
Sambucaria.	Dolabraria, r.	Tiliaria.
EPIONE.	PERICALLIA.	Erosaria, r.
Apiciaria.	Syringaria,	Angularia.
RUMIA.	SELENIA.	HIMERA.
Cratægata.	Illunaria,	Pennaria, r.
VENILIA.	Illustraria.	PHIGALIA.
Maculata.	ODONTOPERA.	Pilosaria.
ANGERONA.	Bidentata.	AMPHIDASYS.
Prunaria.	CROCALLIS.	Prodromaria, r.
METROCAMPA	Elinguaria.	Betularia, r.
Margaritaria.		HEMEROPHILA.

H. Abruptaria.**CLEORA.**

Lichenaria.

BOARMIA.

Repandaria.

Rhomboidaria.

Abietaria, r.

TEPHROSIA.

Crepuscularia.

Biundularia.

GNOPHOS.

Obscurata.

PSEUDOTERPNA.

Cytisaria.

GEOMETRA.

Papilionaria, r.

IODES.

Vernaria.

Lactearia.

PHORODESMA

Baiularia.

HEMITHEA

Thymiaria.

EPHYRA.

Poraria, r.

Punctaria, r.

Trilineararia.

Omicronaria.

Orbicularia.

ASTHENA.

Luteata.

Candidata.

ACIDALIA

Scutulata.

Bisetata.

Trigeminata.

Osseata.

Incanaria.

Promutata.

Straminata.

Subsericeata.

Remutata.

Strigillata.

Aversata.

A. Inornata.

Emarginata.

TIMANDRA.

Amataria.

CABERA.

Pusaria.

Exanthemaria.

CORYCIA.

Taminata, r.

MACARIA.

Alternata, r.

Liturata, r.

HALIA.

Vauaria.

STRENIA.

Clathrata.

PANAGRA.

Petraria.

NUMERIA.

Pulveraria, r.

SELIDOSEMA.

Plumaria.

FIDONIA.

Atomaria.

Piniaria.

MINOA

Euphorbiata, r.

ASPILATES.

Citraria.

Gilvaria.

ABRAXAS.

Grossulariata.

LIGDIA.

Adustata.

LOMASPILIS.

Marginata.

HYBERNIA.

Rupicapraria.

Lencophæaria, r.

Aurantiaaria.

Progemmaaria.

Defoliaria.

ANISOPTERYX.

Æscularia.

CHEIMATOBIA.

Brumata.

OPORABIA.

Dilutata.

LARENTIA.

Didymata.

L. Multistrigaria.

Olivata.

L. Pectinitaria.**EMMELESIA.**

Affinitata.

Alchemillata, r.

Albulata.

Decolorata.

Unifasciata, r.

Blandiata.

EUPITHECIA.

Venosata.

Centaureata.

Succenturiata.

Castigata.

Pusillata.

Indigata, r.

Subnotata.

Vulgata.

Minutata.

Abbreviata.

Exiguata.

Pumilata.

Coronata.

Rectangulata.

LOBOPHORA.

Viretata.

THERA.

Simulata.

HYPSSIPETES.

Impluviata.

Elutata.

MELANTHIA.

Rubiginata.

Ocellata.

Albicillata, r.

MELANIPPE.

Procellata.

M. Unangulata.

Rivata.

Subtristata.

Montanata.

Galiata.

Fluctuata.

ANTICLEA.

Rubidata.

Badiata.

Derivata.

COREMIA.

Propugnata.

C. Ferrugata.
 Quadrifasciaria, r.
 CAMPTOGRAMMA.
 Bilineata
 Gemmata, r.
 PHIBALAPTERYX.
 Tersata.
 Lignata.
 Vitalbata.
 SCOTOSA.
 Dubitata.
 Certata.
 Undulata, r.

CIDARIA.
 Psittacata.
 Miata.
 Picata, r.
 Corylata.
 Russata.
 Immanata.
 Suffumata
 Silaceata.
 Prunata, r.
 Testata.
 Fulvata.
 Pyraliata.

C. Dotata.
 PELURGA.
 Comitata.
 EUBOLIA.
 Cervinaria.
 Mensuraria.
 Palumbaria.
 Bipunctaria.
 Lineolata.
 ANAITIS.
 Plagiata.
 TANAGRA.
 Chærophyllata.

DREPANULIDÆ.

PLATYPTERYX.
 Falcula.

P. Hamula, r.
 Lacertula.

CILIX.
 Spinula.

PSEUDO-BOMBYCES.

DICRANURA.
 Furcula, r.
 Bifida, r.
 Vinula.
 STAUROPUS.
 Fagi, v. r.
 PETASIA.
 Cassinea.

PYGÆRA.
 Bucephala.
 CLOSTERA.
 Curtula, r.
 PTILODONTIS.
 Palpina.
 NOTODONTA.
 Camelina.

N. Dictæa, r.
 Dictæoides, r.
 Dromedarius, r.
 Ziczac.
 Chaonia, r.
 DILOBA.
 Cæruleocephala.

NOCTUÆ.

THYATIRA.
 Derasa.
 Batis.
 CYMATOPHORA.
 Duplaris.
 Diluta.
 Ridens, r.
 BRYOPHILA.
 Glandifera.
 Perla.
 DIPHTHERA.
 Orion, v. r.
 ACRONYCTA.
 Tridens.
 Psi.
 Leporina, r.
 Aceris.
 Megacephala.

A. Alni, v. r.
 Ligustri.
 Rumicis.
 LEUCANIA.
 Conigera.
 Vitellina, v. r.
 Extranea, v. r.
 Lithargyria.
 Littoralis, v. r.
 Comma.
 Impura.
 Pallens.
 NONAGRIA.
 Despecta, r.
 Fulva.
 Typhæ.
 Lutosa.

GORTYNA.
 Flavago, r.
 HYDRÆCIA.
 Nictitans.
 Micacea.
 AXYLIA.
 Putris.
 XYLOPHASIA.
 Rurea.
 Lithoxylea.
 Sublustris.
 Polyodon.
 Hepatica.
 DIPTERYGIA.
 Pinastri.
 APOROPHYLA.
 Australis, r.

LAPHYGMA.

Exigua, v. r.

NEURIA.

Saponariæ.

HELIOPHOBUS.

Popularis.

Hispidus, r.

CHARÆAS.

Graminis, r.

CERIGO.

Cytherea.

LUPERINA.

Testacea.

Dumerilii, v. r.

Cæspitis, r.

MAMESTRA.

Abjecta, v. r.

Anceps.

Brassicæ.

Persicariæ.

APAMEA.

Basilinea.

Gemina.

Oculea.

MIANA.

Strigilis.

Fasciuncula.

Literosa.

Furuncula.

Arcuosa.

GRAMMESIA.

Trilinea.

ACOSMATIA.

Caliginosa, r.

CARADRINA.

Morpheus.

Alsines.

Blanda.

Cubicularis.

AGROTIS.

Valligera, v. r.

Puta.

Suffusa.

Saucia.

Segetum.

Lunigera, r.

Exclamationis.

Corticea.

Cinerea, v. r.

A. Nigricans.

Tritici.

Aquilina.

Obelisca.

Porphyrea. |

Pyrophila, v. r.

Lucerneæ.

TRIPHÆNA.

Ianthina.

Fimbria.

Interjecta.

Subsequa, v. r.

Orbona.

Pronuba.

NOCTUA.

Glareosa.

Plecta.

C-nigrum.

Flammatra, v. r.

Triangulum.

Brunnea.

Festiva.

Bella.

Umbrosa.

Baia.

Neglecta, v. r.

Xanthographa.

TÆNIOCAMPA.

Gothica.

Rubricosa.

Instabilis.

Stabilis.

Gracilis.

Miniosa, r.

Munda, r.

Cruda.

ORTHOSIA.

Upsilon.

Lota.

Macilenta.

ANCHOCELIS.

Rufina.

Pistacina, v. r.

Lunosa.

Litura.

CERASTIS.

Vaccinii.

Spadicea ;

SCOPELOSOMA.

Satellitæ.

DASYCAMPA.

Rubiginea, r.

XANTHIA.

Silago.

Aurago.

Gilvago, r.

Ferruginea.

TETHEA.

Sabtusa.

Retusa.

COSMIA.

Trapezina.

Pyrulina, r.

Diffinis.

Affinis.

EREMOBIA.

Ochroleuca.

DIANTHÆCIA.

Carpophaga, r.

Capsincola.

Cucubali.

HECATERA.

Serena.

POLIA.

Flavicincta.

DASYPOLIA.

Templi, v. r.

EPUNDA.

Lutulenta.

Nigra.

Viminalis.

Lichenea.

MISELIA.

Oxyacanthæ.

AGRIOPIS.

Aprilina.

PHLOGOPHORA.

Meticulosa.

EUPLEXIA.

Lucipara.

APLECTA.

Herbida, r.

Occulta, v. r.

Nebulosa.

Advena, r.

HADENA.

Adusta.

H. Protea.	C. Umbratica.	GONOPTERA.
Dentina.	HELIOTHIS.	Libatrix.
Chenopodii.	Marginata.	AMPHIPYRA.
Suasa.	Peltigera, r.	Pyramidea.
Peregrina, v. r.	Armigera, r.	Tragopoginis.
Oleracea.	Dipsacea, v. r.	MANIA.
Pisi.	HELIODES.	Typica.
Thalassina.	Arbuti.	Maura.
Contigua, r.	ACONTIA.	TOXOCAMPA.
Genistæ, r.	Luctuosa.	Pastinum.
XYLOCAMPA.	Fuscula.	STILBIA.
Lithoriza.	MICRA.	Anomala, r.
CALOCAMPA.	Ostrina, v. r.	CATOCALA.
Vetusta.	BREPHOS.	Fraxini, v. r.
Exoleta.	Notha.	Nupta.
XYLINA.	HABROSTOLA.	Promissa, v. r.
Rhizolitha.	Urticæ.	CATEPHIA.
Semibrunnea.	Triplasia.	Alchymista, v. r.
Petrificata.	PLUSIA.	EUCLIDIA.
CUCULLIA.	Chrysitis.	Mi.
Verbasci.	Festucæ, r.	Glyphica.
Scrophulariæ.	Iota.	PHYTOMETRA.
Absinthii.	V-aureum.	Ænea.
Chamomillæ	Gamma.	

DELTOIDÆ.

HYPENA.	RIVULA.
Proboscidalis.	Sericealis.
Rostralis.	HERMINIS.
HYPENODES.	Barbalis.
Albistrigalis, v. r.	Tarsipennalis.
Costæstrigalis.	

AVENTIIDÆ.

AVENTIA.—Flexula.

PYRALIDES.

PYRALIS.	HERBULA.	PARAPONYX.
Fimbrialis.	Cæspitalis.	Stratiotalis.
Farinalis.	ENNYCHIA.	HYDROCAMPA.
AGLOSSA.	Cingulalis.	Nymphæalis, r.
Pinguinalis	ENDOTRICHIA.	Stagnalis.
CLEDEOBLA.	Flammealis.	BOTYS.
Angustalis.	STENIA.	Lupulinalis, v. r.
PYRAUSTA.	Punctalis.	Pandalis, r.
Punicealis.	CATACLYSTA.	Flavalis.
Purpuralis.	Lemnalis.	Verticalis.
Ostrinalis.		Lancealis, r.

B. Fuscalis.
Asinalis.
Urticalis.
EBULEA.
Sambucalis.
Crocealis.
Verbascalis, v. r.

PIONEA.
Forficalis.
Margaritalis, r.
Stramentalis, v. r.
SPILODES.
Sticticalis, r.
Palealis, v. r.

S. Cinctalis.
SCOPULA.
Lutealis, r.
Olivalis.
Prunalis.
Ferrugalis.

PLICATÆ

SCOPARIA.
Ambigualis.
Cembralis.

S. Pyralalis.
Lineolalis.
Cratægalis.

S. Resinalis.
Coarctalis.
Pallidulalis.

CRAMBI.

PLATYTES.
Cerussellus.
CRAMBUS.
Falsellus, v. r.
Pratellus.
Dumetellus, r.
Pascuellus.
Perlellus.
Selasellus, r.
Tristellus.
Contaminellus, r.
Geniculellus.
Culmellus.
Chrysonychellus.
Hortuellus.

CHILO.
Phragmitellus.
SCHÆNOBIUS.
Forficellus.
ILITHYIA.
Carnella.
MYELOPHILA.
Cribrella.
HOMŒOSOMA.
Sinuella.
Nebulella, v. r.
Eluviella.
EPHESTIA.
Elutella.
Artemisiella.

PHYCIS.
Dilutella.
Roborella.
PEMPELIA.
Palumbella.
RHODOPHÆA.
Consociella.
Marmorella, r.
Tumidella.
ONCOCERA.
Ahenella.
MELIA.
Sociella.

TORTRICES.

TORTRIX.
Sorbiana.
Viburnana.
CENECTRA.
Pilleriana.
PERONEA.
Aspersana.
PENTHINA.
Sellana.
Carbonana.
SERICORIS.
Littorana.
Conchana.
EUCHROMIA.
Purpurana.

ORTHOTÆNIA.
Antiquana.
Ericetana.
PHTHEOCHROA.
Rugosana.
SCIAPHILA.
Cretaceana.
PHOXOPTERYX.
Comptana.
SEMASIA.
Rufillana.
DICRORAMPHA.
Consortana.
CATOPTRIA.
Parvulana.

C. Pupillana.
SMÆTHIS.
Vibrana.
EUPŒCILIA.
Affinitana.
Flaviciliana.
Ruficiliana.
ARGYROLEPIA.
Dubrisana.
Cnicana.
CONCHYLIS.
Dipoltana.

TINEÆ.

PSYCHOIDES.	D. Bipunctosa.	PARAISA.
Aerhuellella.	Nanatella.	Metzneriella.
TINEA.	Capreolella.	Carlinella.
Imella.	Ciliella.	ACROLEPIA.
Albipunctella.	Rotundella.	Granitella.
NEMOPHORA.	Douglasella.	GONIODOMA.
Metaxella.	GELECHIA.	Auroguttella.
NEMATOIS.	Inornatella.	COLEOPHORA.
Cupriacellus.	Littorella.	Fabriciella.
Minimellus.	Anthyllidella.	Deauratella.
CEROSTOMA.	Atrella.	Wockeella.
Nemorella.	Brizella.	Binotapennella.
DEPRESSARIA.	Inopella.	
Pallorella.		

PTEROPHORINA.

ADACTYLA.	P. Zetterstedtii.	P. Microdactylus.
Bennetii.	Lithodactylus.	Spilodactylus.
PTEROPHORUS.*	Lienigianus.	Baliodactylus.
Ochrodactylus.		

LAND AND FRESHWATER SHELLS.

By G. GUYON, assisted by A. J. HAMBROUGH, F.L.S.,
F.G.S., and A. G. MORE, F.L.S.

The nomenclature and arrangement are adopted from Messrs. Forbes and Hanley's "History of the British Mollusca," but the names given in Gray's second edition of Turton's Manual are added in all cases where they differ. Our best acknowledgments are due to Mr. Alder, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, for the unvarying courtesy with which he has examined the numerous specimens submitted to his judgment, and considerable accuracy is believed to have been attained through his valuable co-operation. Similar assistance has been kindly rendered by Dr. Baird of the British Museum.

Cyclas cornea. Abundant in many of the ditches in Sandown Level ; also in a pond near Ryde.—A. G. M.

calyculata (*lacustris* G.). Sandown, by the causeway.—A. G. M.
The Pond, Bonchurch.—G. C. Between Sandown Fort and Yar Bridge.—A. J. H.

- Pisidium pusillum*. Abundant in the East Yar, and in ditches in Sandown Marshes; also in the Medina.—*A. G. M.* Stream near Woolverton.—*G. G.*
- cinereum*. Pond near the Priory.—*A. G. M.* A dubious species, considered by Mr. Jeffreys a variety of *P. pulchellum*.
- nitidum*. Pond near Fivens, St. Helen's.—*A. G. M.*
- pulchellum** Steepphill.—*A. J. H.* Stream at Bonchurch.—*G. G.* The Medina near Blackwater; the East Yar and Sandown Marshes.—*A. G. M.*
- amnicum*. In the Medina near Blackwater Mill; and in the East Yar by the causeway across the Sandown Marshes.—*A. G. M.*
- Anodonta cygnea*. Common in Sandown Marshes, both in the East Yar and in the ditches which drain the marshes.—*A. G. M.*
- Valvata piscinalis*. Everywhere in the East Yar, from Alverstone to its mouth.—*A. G. M.*
- Arion empiricorum* (*ater* *G.*). Common.
- hortensis*. Under a fallen tree in a wood at Bembridge.—*A. G. M.* Common about Ventnor.—*G. G.*
- Limax agrestis*. Common; a variety of an opaque milky white occurs.
- cinereus* (*maximus* *G.*). Common.
- arborum*. Steepphill.—*A. J. H.* Bembridge.—*A. G. M.* Ryde. *W. Thompson, 1841.*
- flavus*. Steepphill.—*A. J. H.*
- Sowerbii*. Frequent at Bembridge.—*A. G. M.* Common about Ventnor.—*G. G.*
- Gagates*. "Isle of Wight."—*Forbes and Hanley.*
- Vitrina pellucida*. In damp places among moss, &c., Steepphill.—*A. J. H.* Marshcombe Copse, Yaverland.—*A. G. M.* Not uncommon about Ventnor.—*G. G.*
- Zonites cellarius*. Under stones in damp fields, &c., frequent.
- alliarius*. Under damp mossy stones, &c., Steepphill.—*A. J. H.* Bembridge.—*A. G. M.*
- nitidulus*. Abundant at Bembridge, more so than *Z. cellarius*.—*A. G. M.* Common under stones in damp situations about Ventnor.—*G. G.*
- purus*. In moss, &c., Steepphill, where also the dark variety occurs.—*A. J. H.* Abundant in Shanklin Copse.—*G. G.* Centurion's Copse, Bembridge, and Marshcombe Copse, Yaverland.—*A. G. M.*
- radiatulus*. Bembridge.—*A. G. M.* Near Ventnor.—*G. G.*
- nitidus* (*lucidus* *G.*). St. Lawrence — *A. J. H.* Lord Yarrow's Pond.—*Sir W. Jardine.*
- excavatus*. Apse woods; and among damp leaves and decayed wood at Alverstone.—*A. J. H.*

* The island specimens are a variety approaching the *Cyclas obtusalis* of Nilsson.

Z. crystallinus. In moss, &c., Steephill.—*A. J. H.* In Shanklin Copse frequent.—*G. G.* Centurion's Copse and Marshcombe Copse with *purus*, but rather more common.—*A. G. M.*

Helix aspersa. Common everywhere; the monstrosity *scalaris*, with elevated spire and looser whorls, has been observed near Ventnor by Dr. Gray.

arbustorum. Damp banks and hedges; Steephill and St. Lawrence.—*A. J. H.* Pelham Wood.—*G. G.*

cantiana. Hedges and long grass; mostly on the chalk, also at Ryde and near Bembridge.—*A. G. M.*

nemoralis, (including *hortensis* and *hybrida* G.) The variety *hortensis* much more common than *nemoralis*.

virgata. Grassy places; Steephill Downs.—*A. J. H.* A small variety at Freshwater.—*Sir W. Jardine*. Common, especially in autumn, when it swarms on hedge-banks and occurs of every variety from plain white to many striped.—*A. G. M.* At Ryde, and abundant throughout the Undercliff.—*G. G.*

caperata (*fasciolata* G.). With the last, and nearly as common. A rather darker variety is abundant in the shingle in Steephill Cove.—*G. G.*

ericetorum. On long grass; Steephill.—*A. J. H.* Not common at Brading.—*A. G. M.* Frequent about the cliffs, Ventnor.—*G. G.*

Lapicida. Under stones in damp places; the Landslip, Bonchurch.—*A. J. H.* Pelham Wood, Ventnor.—*G. G.*

rufescens. Common everywhere under stones.

hispida (includes also *sericea*, *concinna*, and *depilata* G.). Under stones; Steephill.—*A. J. H.* Abundant about Ventnor; the var. *concinna* in a field at Bank End, and sparingly elsewhere.—*G. G.*

sericea (*granulata* G.) Local, under stones at Wroxall.—*A. J. H.*

aculeata. In moss, &c., Bonchurch.—*A. J. H.* Centurion Copse, Bembridge, and Marshcombe Copse, Yaverland.—*A. G. M.* Shanklin Copse not very abundant.—*G. G.*

fulva (*Zonites fulva* G.) Apse Woods.—*A. J. H.* Near Bembridge.—*A. G. M.* In moss from Shanklin Copse.—*G. G.*

pulchella. Under stones and damp clods on Bembridge Down.—*Miss F. M. More*. On the walls of Quarr Abbey.—*A. G. M.* The ribbed form common about Ventnor.—*G. G.*

rotundata. Very common under stones and in moss.

umbilicata. Yaverland.—*A. G. M.* Abundant at Carisbrook.—*Mr. Hall*. It appears to be scarce in the Isle of Wight, though common in the Isle of Portland under stones on the tops of walls.—*G. G.*

Bulimus acutus. Freshwater Down, "near the lighthouse."—*A. G. M.* Between Freshwater and Brook.—*Mr. W. Thompson*, 1841.

obscurus. Frequent under stones.

- Pupa umbilicata* (*cylindracea* G.) Steephill.—*A. J. H.* Very common under stones about Ventnor.—*G. G.* St. Helen's Spit, often found in the empty shells of *H. nemoralis* that have been broken by thrushes.—*A. G. M.*
- P. muscorum.* Bembridge Down in several places.—*Miss F. M. More.* Steephill.—*A. J. H.* Common about Ventnor, but rather less so than the last species; a toothless variety occurs.—*G. G.*
- Secale.* On limestone rocks; local, but not scarce; Steephill.—*A. J. H.* Near the Parsonage, Ventnor.—*G. G.*
- edentula* (*Vertigo edentula* G.). A young specimen named by Mr. Alder has been taken by *Rev. W. E. Hambrough* at Alverstone and another in Steephill Quarry.
- minutissima* (*Vertigo muscorum* G.). Under stones on the shore; St. Lawrence.—*A. J. H.* Only three other British localities for this little shell are recorded in Messrs. Forbes and Hanley's work, and two of them are in Scotland.
- pygmæa* (*Vertigo pygmæa* G.). Copse, north of road between Ventnor and Steephill.—*Sir W. Jardine.* Under stones and in moss, Steephill Cove.—*A. J. H.*
- Antivertigo* (*Vertigo Antivertigo* G.). Upon stones and aquatic plants in marshy places: Steephill and near Woolverton.—*A. J. H.* Colwell Bay.—*Mr. Alder.*
- Balea fragilis* (*perversa* G.). Trunks of trees, &c., in woods, Steephill and St. Lawrence.—*A. J. H.* Quarr Copse and Centurion's Copse.—*A. G. M.*
- Clausilia laminata* (*bidens* G.). In moss about trees, &c., Steephill.—*A. J. H.* Near Bembridge.—*A. G. M.* Shanklin Copse and Pelham Wood.—*G. G.*
- nigricans.* Common in moss and under stones.
- Zua lubrica.* Frequent in moss and beneath stones; Centurion's Copse and St. Helen's Spit.—*A. G. M.* Steephill.—*A. J. H.* The Undercliff generally.—*G. G.*
- Succinea putris.* About flags and rushes; Alverstone.—*A. J. H.* Centurion's Copse and in Sandown Marshes.—*A. G. M.* Borders of streams about Ventnor.—*G. G.*
- Physa fontinalis.* Ditch in a meadow between Ventnor and Steephill.—*Sir W. Jardine.* Abundant everywhere in Sandown Level, also near Ryde and in the Medina.—*A. G. M.*
- hypnorum* (*Aplexus hypnorum* G.). Plentiful in a pond at the entrance to Sandown, and occurs sparingly in ditches near to Sandown Fort.—*A. G. M.*
- Planorbis albus.* Alverstone.—*A. J. H.* Abundant in Sandown Marshes and in the Medina.—*A. G. M.*
- nautilus.* Lord Yarborough's Pond.—*Sir W. Jardine.* Westover.—*A. J. H.*

carinatus. Common in the ditches in Sandown Marshes and in the Yar itself above Yar Bridge.—*A. G. M.*

marginatus (*complanatus* G.). Rare (?). Pond at St. John's, Ryde.—*A. G. M.* The specimens have been seen by Mr. Alder, who considers them a variety of this species.

Vortex. Rare (?). In the pond of the garden at St. John's, near Ryde.—*A. G. M.* This and the preceding species may have been introduced by means of the aquatic plants which were placed here by Dr. Bromfield.

Spirorbis. Common in every pond and stream, and one of the few shells yielded by the Medina.—*A. G. M.* Steephill Pool.—*G. G.*

contortus. Westover and Alverstoke.—*A. J. H.*

Limnæus pereger. "Of every variety from the narrow and elongated shell of the main stream of the Yar to the broad variety of stagnant water which resembles *L. auricularius*; fine examples of the latter occur in the small pond at Bonchurch; it is the only one of the Isle of Wight air-breathing mollusks which I have found in brackish water."—*A. G. M.*

stagnalis. Pond near Haven Street.—*Mr. George.*

truncatulus. St. Lawrence Pond.—*A. J. H.* Abundant at the edge of the river Yar and the Medina.—*A. G. M.* Under stones in a marshy spot in Steephill Cove.—*G. G.* In a little stream near the Priory.—*A. G. M.*

palustris. In the ditches near Sandown Fort, in the East Yar by Yar Bridge, and in a pond at the entrance to Sandown; but in all localities sparingly.—*A. G. M.*

Ancylus fluviatilis. Adhering to stones, &c., under water; Steephill Pool.—*A. J. H.* Abundant in the Yar; also in the streams near Ryde.—*A. G. M.*

Carychium minimum. Frequent in damp moss, &c.; Steephill.—*A. J. H.* Marshcombe Copse, Yaverland; and Centurion's Copse, Bembridge.—*A. G. M.* Shanklin Copse and mossy stones on the borders of a stream by Woolverton.—*G. G.*

Cyclostoma elegans. Under stones in damp fields and crawling on grassy banks after rain; Steephill.—*A. J. H.* Common near Bembridge, and especially abundant on the chalk.—*A. G. M.* Pelham Wood, the Landslip, &c.—*G. G.*

It will thus be seen that, omitting *Assiminia*, 72 out of the 122 ascertained British species have been found to occur in the Isle of Wight.

ZOOPHYTES.

ACTINIÆ, or SEA ANEMONES.

Actinobia Dianthus. A single specimen has been dredged in Stokes Bay.

Sagartia bellis. Bembridge and Shanklin Ledge. Specimens of this species occur with the B-like mark at the base of the tentacles, which has been given as a character of *S. troglodytes*. The latter has not yet been detected here.

Anthea cereus. Varieties *b* and *c* of Mr. Gosse's *Actinologia Britannica* occur near Ventnor and Bembridge; small specimens are occasionally found high up between tide marks.

Actinia Mesembryanthemum. Numerous varieties of this common, but handsome species abound.

Bunodes Ballii (*clavata* Thompson). Not uncommon at Shanklin in the usual varieties. Var. *c.* (*funesta*) is found at Bembridge, looking not unlike a *B. bellis* with large tentacles.

Tealia crassicornis. Abundant about Ventnor, and occurs also at Bembridge, but requires an experienced eye for its detection. The specimens as usual vary much in colour.

Peachia (?). A small zoophyte, found on the mud in Brading Harbour, was forwarded to Mr. Gosse for examination, but the specimen was unfortunately lost. From sketch and description he believes that it belonged to this genus.

CHAPTER VIII.

BOTANY.

Flowering Plants, arranged according to the Natural Districts — Seaside Plants — Plants of the Tertiary District — Plants of the Central Chalk Range — Plants of the Greensand Valley — Plants of the Undercliff and adjacent Downs — Ferns — Mosses — Lichens — Seaweeds — Fungi.

FLOWERING PLANTS AND FERNS.

BY A. G. MORE, F.L.S.

OWING to the varied nature of its soil, and the endless diversity of its landscape, the Isle of Wight offers to the botanist a field of the highest interest. Its position too, at the extreme south of England and midway between the eastern and western Floras*, give it, with an extended

* Germanic and Atlantic Types of Watson.

coast line, peculiar advantages: and now that the vegetation of the island has been so thoroughly explored by so accomplished a botanist as Dr. Bromfield, through whose labours its soil may be almost said to have become classic ground, there is perhaps no better opportunity for studying indigenous plants than is afforded by a short stay in this favoured locality.

From its vicinity to the mainland, the Flora of the Isle of Wight does not evince in any marked degree an insular character, and differs but little from that of Hampshire. It is the somewhat larger proportion of species belonging to the "Atlantic Type" of Watson, and the comparatively smaller number of "Germanic" plants, which distinguish the botany of the Isle of Wight from that of the county; and it will be remembered that the "Atlantic," or west-country Flora, is of a decidedly more maritime character than the "Germanic" (or that of the east side and south-east corner of England).

Those who have rambled upon the chalk hills of the mainland will miss not only the familiar groves of beech, with the two lovely white Helleborines*, and the *Monotropa*, their sure attendants (here among the rarest of plants), but strange to say, *Paris quadrifolia*, *Phyteuma orbiculare*, *Daphne Mezereon*, the *Convallariæ*, *Hordeum sylvaticum*, *Dipsacus pilosus*, *Helleborus viridis*, and even *Taxus baccata*, are altogether wanting on this side of the Solent, though it is hardly to the absence of chalk or of localities apparently suitable, that this deficiency is to be attributed.

The paucity of aquatic plants is another remarkable circumstance, though less unexpected in a district too small to give rise to any considerable streams.

The geological features of the Isle of Wight are well known, and have besides been described in another part of this volume; as they exert a material influence upon the vegetation, it has been thought that an endeavour to arrange the plants somewhat in accordance with their distribution upon the different formations, will be found convenient, and

* *Cephalanthera ensifolia* cannot with certainty be included in the Island Flora.

the groups thus formed will enable visitors, whose stay is limited, to gather a larger variety of plants from knowing something of their association. With this view it is proposed to divide the Isle of Wight into five principal districts, viz. : —

- I. The Sea-shore.
- II. Northern Tertiaries.
- III. Central Chalk Range.
- IV. Valley of the Greensand.
- V. Undercliff, with the Downs above it.

It cannot however be expected that in so short a space mention should be made of *all* the plants which are found growing wild in the island. Only the more interesting and prominent species can find room here : but those who require more complete information, will necessarily refer to Dr. Bromfield's *Flora Vectensis*, where the localities are most carefully and exactly indicated, and also to Babington's *Manual*, which contains the most accurate descriptions of all our British plants.

The most important streams of the Isle of Wight all fall into the Solent, and terminate in muddy estuaries or inlets of the sea, with which the land is deeply indented on the north shore ; and as these creeks are the head-quarters of the seaside plants, we shall first proceed to notice the maritime vegetation, which amounts to about one-tenth of the whole Flora.

DIVISION I.

SEA-SIDE PLANTS.

The sea-side plants found in the island comprise some that inhabit,—

1. Rocks and cliffs.

Statice occidentalis.
Raphanus maritimus.
Matthiola incana.
Daucus maritimus.

Crithmum maritimum.
Asplenium marinum.
Brassica oleracea.
Euphorbia portlandica.

The last grows also in sand, but not with us.

Raphanus maritimus is sometimes found on shingle or on banks sloping towards the sea.

2. Others are partial to the loose sand of the shore, viz. :

<i>Crambe maritima.</i>	<i>Asparagus officinalis.</i>
<i>Cakile maritima.</i>	<i>Carex arenaria.</i>
<i>Honkenya peploides.</i>	<i>Phleum arenarium.</i>
<i>Trifolium suffocatum.</i>	<i>Poa loliacea.</i>
<i>Eryngium maritimum.</i>	<i>Triticum junceum.</i>
<i>Convolvulus Soldanella.</i>	<i>laxum.</i>
<i>Erythræa littoralis.</i>	<i>Ammophila arenaria.</i>
<i>Salsola Kali.</i>	<i>Poa bulbosa.</i>
<i>Atriplex arenaria.</i>	<i>loliacea.</i>
<i>Polygonum Raii.</i>	<i>Festuca uniglumis.</i>
<i>Euphorbia Peplis.</i>	

3. Another class, and that best represented here, consists of plants which inhabit the salt marshes and meadows bordering on the creeks, and the muddy margins of the estuaries.

<i>Cochlearia anglica.</i>	<i>Atr. marina.</i>
<i>Sagina maritima.</i>	<i>Triglochin maritimum.</i>
<i>Lepigonum marginatum.</i>	<i>Juncus maritimus.</i>
<i>Althæa officinalis.</i>	<i>Gerardi.</i>
<i>Aster Tripolium.</i>	<i>Carex divisa.</i>
<i>Bupleurum tenuissimum.</i>	<i>extensa.</i>
<i>Inula crithmoïdes.</i>	<i>distans.</i>
<i>Cenante Lachenalii.</i>	<i>Alopecurus bulbosus.</i>
<i>Artemisia maritima.</i>	<i>Sclerochloa procumbens.</i>
<i>Glaux maritima.</i>	<i>Borreri.</i>
<i>Statice Limonium.</i>	<i>distans.</i>
<i>rariflora.</i>	<i>maritima.</i>
<i>Salicornia herbacea.</i>	<i>Spartina stricta.</i>
<i>radicans.</i>	<i>Hordeum maritimum.</i>
<i>Schoberia maritima.</i>	<i>Lepturus filiformis.</i>
<i>Atriplex littoralis.</i>	

4. The next are more indifferent to soil and situation.

<i>Glaucium luteum.</i>	<i>Beta maritima.</i>
<i>Cochlearia danica.</i>	<i>Atriplex Babingtonii.</i>
<i>officinalis.</i>	<i>Plantago maritima.</i>
<i>Frankenia lævis.</i>	<i>Halimus portulacoïdes.</i>
<i>Silene maritima.</i>	<i>Armeria maritima.</i>
<i>Lepigonum medium.</i>	

5. Two inhabit the sea itself,—

Zostera marina.

|

Zostera nana.

6. Others, the ditches containing water more or less brackish.

*Ranunculus Baudotii.**Ruppia rostellata.**Zannichellia palustris* var.

|

*Potamogeton flabellatus.**Scirpus maritimus.*

7. A last section includes such species as evince a certain partiality for the sea-coast, without being absolutely restricted to the shore itself.

*Coronopus didyma.**Cerastium tetrandrum.**Erodium maritimum.**Smyrnium Olusatrum.**Apium graveolens.**Samolus Valerandi.**Carduus tenuiflorus.**Linaria repens.*

|

*Scirpus Savii.**Tabernæmontani.**Briza minor.**Gastridium lendigerum.**Medicago denticulata.**Erythræa pulchella.**Trigonella ornithopodioïdes.**Festuca arundinacea.*

The points best deserving of a botanist's attention are :—*Brading Harbour* and *St. Helen's Spit*. In various places along the shores of the haven, will be found nearly all the plants enumerated in List 3. Curiously enough, *Statice rariflora* and *Spartina stricta* are missing, though they occur in all the other creeks: *Inula crithmoïdes*, too, is peculiar to Cowes and Newtown.

Most of the plants are sufficiently abundant, and do not require any particular directions to their localities, except that *Alopecurus bulbosus* and *Carex divisa* chiefly occur in the low meadows of the south side, and with them will be gathered the velvet-leaved *Althæa* and *Carex distans*. *Sclerochloa Borreri* grows in the same marsh upon places occasionally flooded; with it is *S. procumbens*, and sparingly *S. distans*.

At Brading Quay will again be found *S. Borreri*, and on the landward slope of the embankment *Medicago denticulata*. The marsh on the north side is remarkable for the prevalence of *Hordeum pratense*, and *H. maritimum*, and in the ditches will be seen *Ranunculus Baudotii*, *R. Drouetii*, *Potamogeton flabellatus*, and lower down the same stream *Alisma ranunculoïdes* and *Hippuris vulgaris*.

The banks which are covered at spring-tides, nourish an abundant growth of *Statice* and *Armeria*, *Salicornia radicans*, *Halimus portulacoides*. *Sclerochloa maritima*, &c., and *Zostera nana*, is the prevailing species on the mud flats.

But it is upon the tract of "Dunes" or Sandhills, lying immediately below St. Helen's, that the principal harvest will be made. This small piece of ground, not exceeding probably 40 or 50 acres, has been ascertained to yield no less than 250 species of flowering plants, that being nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the whole Flora of the Isle of Wight: and among these not the least interesting are twelve out of thirteen indigenous Trefoils. Indeed, the abundance of Leguminosæ and Caryophyllæ is the most striking feature of the Sandhills, and brings to mind the use which has been made of the prevalence of these two families of plants, to characterise a region warmer than our own. The two Stonecrops also might suggest a resemblance to the arid sands of the Deserts, were it not for the Rein-deer Moss, which is the next plant to meet the eye.

St. Helen's Dover or *Spit* yields all the species of List 2, except the *Asparagus*, *Crambe*, *Phleum arenarium*, and *Erythræa littoralis*; these must be sought on "Fresh-water Island." *Euphorbia Paralias* still flourishes, a last legacy from the hand of Dr. Bromfield, who planted it just before his departure for the East.

Towards the Mill-pond the soil is more tenacious, and there will be seen most of the plants usual in such situations, *Sagina maritima*, *Cenante Lachenalii*, *Lepturus filiformis*, *Frankenia lævis*, *Artemisia maritima*, &c. *Carex extensa* and *C. distans* grow in the damp rushy hollows, with them *Erythræa pulchella*. Among the furze will be found *Lathyrus Nissolia*, *Sagina nodosa*, *Moenchia erecta*, *Sagina ciliata*, and a host of other interesting species. *Poa bulbosa*, *Festuca uniglumis*, and *Scilla autumnalis* are in the Isle of Wight, confined to St. Helen's Spit.

Cerastium semidecandrum, *Medicago denticulata*, *Ornithopus*, *Myosotis collina*, and *Festuca Broteri* are also well worth notice. The last week in May or early in June, is the season at which the Sandhills will best repay a visit.

Passing *Priory Bay*, where occur *Polygonum Raii* and *Geranium purpureum*, and then *Salterns*, where will be gathered *Ranunculus Baudotii*, *Ruppia*, and a few sand plants, we should next have halted at *Ryde Dover*, formerly a famous locality for rare plants, but now, through the progress of building, they are so utterly exterminated, that the botanist can only look with fond regret upon what was once more than a rival of St. Helen's Spit, the station for *Dianthus prolifer*, *Datura Stramonium*, *Onopordum*, hosts of Trefoils, &c. Near *Quarr Abbey* is a small embankment which affords *Medicago denticulata* and some other maritime species; but the next creek of importance is that of

Wootton, where a profusion of *Spartina stricta* will be everywhere noticed, and *Statice rariflora* mixed with the commoner *S. Limonium*, besides most of the other plants mentioned in List 3. A short excursion into the neighbouring fields will produce *Briza minor*, *Gastridium lendigerum*, *Cenante pimpinelloides*, *Silene anglica*, and many others.

Next comes the *Medina*, which at high water acquires the dimensions of a river, but is, as far as Newport, nothing more than a prolonged inlet of the sea, affording capital winter quarters on its soft mud to numerous yachts. Here again occur everywhere the plants of List 3. *Inula crithmoïdes* has been found on the east bank. *Coronopus didyma* at East Cowes; and a little above West Cowes *Linaria repens* and its variety *hybrida*, *Inula Helenium*, *Narcissus biflorus*. *Chenopodium olidum* is another local plant: and a piece of Bog at *Cockleton* produces *Pinguicula lusitanica*, *Achillea Ptarmica*, &c.

*Newtown** salt-pans are the chief locality we have for *Inula crithmoïdes*; *Frankenia lævis*, and many other less rare sea-side plants also occur here.

*Yarmouth** and *Norton Spit* correspond in a striking

* A careful search in the salt marshes of *Newtown*, and especially of *Yarmouth*, will very probably prove the lost *Scirpus parvulus* a native of the island as well as of the opposite coast. So inconspicuous a plant is very liable to be overlooked among the rank vegetation and sea rushes, in whose company it is said to flourish.

manner with Brading Harbour and St. Helen's Spit at the other extremity of the Isle of Wight. Both creeks nearly cut off the so-called *islands* of Freshwater and Bembridge, and the vegetation of the two places is very similar. Yarmouth, indeed, produces *Statice rariflora* and *Spartina*, neither of which occur at Bembridge; but the sandy point at Norton is not nearly so rich as St. Helen's, though *Asparagus officinalis*, *Phleum arenarium*, and *Crambe maritima* are peculiar to it. Several trefoils, *Glaucium*, &c. may be worth a passing glance, and inland are many scarce plants. *Chenopodium glaucum*, and *Festuca Myurus* at Thorley. *Chenopodium murale* in the town. *Hyoscyamus niger* attains a large size to the west of Norton; but it is its vicinity to Freshwater with its cliffs, bog, and heath, that renders Yarmouth so desirable headquarters for a botanist (see p. 484).

At *Alum Bay* *Erodium maritimum* grows abundantly in the Warren, and with it *Erythræa littoralis*; but the beach henceforth becomes remarkably destitute of maritime plants, owing to the constant crumbling of the soft materials of which the cliffs consist; the fallen masses are no sooner detached than they are washed away without affording time for the growth of vegetation. Indeed, it may well be presumed, that the number of our coast plants is from this cause decreasing, and we may have others soon to enrol with *Euphorbia Peplis*, *Lathyrus maritimus*, and *Statice spathulata*, as extinct.

To proceed — *Freshwater Cliffs* are productive of many interesting species.

Two of the rock plants are peculiar to this end of the island; if, at least, we suppose *Statice occidentalis* still survives in some of the inaccessible ledges of the cliffs. *Raphanus maritimus* has within the last two years appeared in one of the coves of the Undercliff, as if the offspring of some sea-borne plant drifted by the tides from Freshwater, its only station. *Cochlearia danica*, and *C. officinalis* are also confined to the western extremity of the Isle of Wight.

The plant that will first catch the eye, is the large perennial Sandwort (*Lepigonum rupicola*), whose roots enter

deep into the crevices of the chalk, and presents, when its flowers are fully expanded, a most pleasing sight: by its side flourish the wall Pellitory, Samphire, Sea-beet and many others, but a short description, from the pen of Dr. Bromfield, will give the best idea of the most prominent objects.

“In that part of the majestic line of cliffs called the Main Bench and the Nodes, broad flat ledges or terraces occasionally break the uniformity of this stupendous barrier of chalk: . . . these shelves, technically known as ‘meads’ and ‘greens,’ are sometimes of considerable extent, one of them, the largest, is called ‘Rose-hall green,’ and can only be approached from the water and in calm weather. . . . A scramble of a few minutes over the huge chalk blocks and up the steep bank of débris by the Wedge Rock brings you to the green, which is thickly clothed with a vegetation, consisting of that staple commodity Samphire, immense tufts of *Beta maritima* and quantities of a sturdy *Daucus*, with prodigiously thick and hispid stems, very broad hairy leaves, and great hemispherical and even globose umbels: a gigantic form of *Hieracium Pilosella* (var. *Peleterianum*) . . . *Parietaria officinalis* here seen in its most truly native state. . . . *Picris hieracioides* with its parasite burden (*Orobanche Picridis*), *Halimus portulacoides*, *Sinapis nigra*, and *Raphanus maritimus*, various forms of *Atriplex*, *Armeria vulgaris*, *Anthyllis Vulneraria* (var.), *Frankenia lævis*, *Hippocrepis comosa*, &c., are among the prevailing species on these magnificent bulwarks of our southern line of coast. The influence of the sea air in giving bulk and obesity to many of the plants is very remarkable.”

With reference to the last observation it may be well to mention that the *Daucus*, and other species inhabiting a similar locality, at Whitecliff, are of far less dimensions and “obesity,” than their representatives at Freshwater, where the prevailing wind blows direct *upon* the cliffs, while the plants *are growing*, and that the effect of the same warm and moist south-west breeze must be very different to that of the chilly and shrivelling winds to which the Whitecliff is exposed in spring.

After passing the low land at Freshwater Gate rise the *Compton Cliffs*, another range of perpendicular chalk, on the face of which flourishes the Sea-stock, in the only station where it is indubitably wild.

The sandy cliffs at *Compton Bay* offer a few trefoils, *Sclerochloa loliacea*, and on a more limited scale resemble in their productions Sandown Bay. At *Brook Chine* reappears *Erodium maritimum*. At *Puckaster* will be noticed a remarkable form of the common Reed, whose stems trail along the ground for a great distance.

On some rocks near *Niton* *Asplenium marinum* used to be found, and may still exist in some sheltered nook where it has escaped the grasping hand of reckless collectors. *Trifolium suffocatum* has been gathered by the new lighthouse, and with it *Sclerochloa loliacea*.

Even at some distance from the sea several marine plants will be found nestling in the crevices or upon the ledges of the overhanging cliffs; *Silene maritima*, *Crithmum*, *Beta*, &c., and in the little coves upon the beach some few others such as *Armeria*, *Glaucium*, *Sclerochloa loliacea*, *Beta*, &c.; but littoral plants are remarkably deficient on the southern shores.

Near *Steephill* the Sea-stock again occurs, but in a more doubtful locality, and it may be seen even now establishing itself upon many of the declivities about Ventnor Cove, in company with *Koniga maritima* and the Fennel, another suspected plant.

Turning into *Sandown Bay* we find a shore a little more favourable to vegetation; and accordingly *Triticum junceum* and *T. laxum*, *Atriplex arenaria*, *Ammophila*, *Salsola Kali*, *Convolvulus Soldanella*, *Cakile*, &c., will be found occupying the narrow strip of soil which lies at the foot of the cliffs. It is here that was picked a solitary specimen of *Euphorbia Peplis*, and *Lathyrus maritimus* is also said to have occurred on the same beach. On the slipped banks will be gathered *Scirpus Savii*, *Osmunda regalis*, and other species partial to boggy soil. At the opposite extremity, where the sand meets the chalk, grows *Medicago denticulata*.

Whitecliff is in many places completely covered with Samphire, *Daucus maritimus*, of far less dimensions than the Freshwater plant, *Glacium luteum*, and various other maritime and lime-loving species. Here, too, flourishes the rare *Euphorbia portlandica*, most plentiful on the Sandown side; and on the crumbled chalk at the base of the cliff, approachable from Whitecliff Bay, will be found *Brassica oleracea* (sea-cabbage), in a station as truly wild as that of the Stock at Compton.

In *Whitecliff Bay*, *Festuca arundinacea*, *Atriplex arenaria*, *A. Babingtonii*, and a few other sea-side species are all that will be met with.

A small pool under *Foreland* contains *Typha latifolia* and *Catabrosa aquatica*; and it should be remembered that the slipped banks, wherever lying close under the sea cliffs, often afford many species peculiar to swampy situations.

DIVISION II.

PLANTS OF THE NORTH TERTIARY DISTRICT.

Leaving the coast, the surface of the northern portion of the island is undulating, but never rises to any considerable elevation: its soil is various, consisting chiefly of a strong clay with occasional patches of gravel, sand,* or freshwater limestone, the latter producing a marked effect upon the plants, as may be seen in the immediate neighbourhood of Ryde, where at Binstead will be gathered *Inula Conyza*, *Poterium Sanguisorba*, *Reseda Luteola*, *Gentiana Amarella*. *Pastinaca sativa* and other species seldom found except where the soil is strongly impregnated with calcareous matter. In the same way the presence of sand and gravel is at once attested by the Foxglove, the Hawkweeds, *Carex pallescens*, *Ulex nanus*, *Sarothamnus scoparius*, &c., prominent objects in the heaths and copses about Firestone, Guilford, Briddlesford, New Copse, &c. There is also near Newport a considerable extent of soil strictly sandy

* Chiefly found adjoining the Downs, on their north side, along the narrow strip of Eocene vertical strata that crop out in the sands of Alum Bay, and at Whitecliff.

and similar in its vegetation to the greensand of the "Main Valley."

The principal *woods* are situated on the north side of the downs, and the following are some of their more conspicuous plants:—

Anemone nemorosa.
Ranunculus auricomus.
Stellaria Holostea.
Arenaria trinervis.
Androsæmum officinale.
Acer campestre.
Oxalis Acetosella.
Euonymus europæus.
Vicia Cracca.
 sepium.
 hirsuta.
Prunus Cerasus.
Geum urbanum.
Potentilla Fragariastrum.
Fragaria vesca.
Rosa tomentosa, &c.
Rubus (several).
Pyrus torminalis.
 Malus.
Circæa lutetiana.
Ribes rubrum.
Sanicula europæa.
Angelica sylvestris
Hedera Helix.
Adoxa moschatellina.
Viburnum Opulus.
Asperula cynanchica.
Cornus sanguinea.
Serratula tinctoria.
Lactuca muralis.
Ilex Aquifolium.
Ligustrum vulgare.
Vinca minor.
Pulmonaria angustifolia.
Melampyrum pratense.
Veronica montana.
Stachys sylvatica.
Ajuga reptans.
Lysimachia nemorum.

Daphne Laureola.
Euphorbia amygdaloides.
Mercurialis perennis.
Humulus Lupulus
Ulmus montana.
Salix (several.)
Populus tremula.
Betula.
Corylus.
Quercus.
Orchis mascula.
Habenaria chlorantha.
Orchis maculata.
Listera ovata.
Neottia Nidus-avis.
Epipactis latifolia.
Iris foetidissima.
Narcissus Pseudo-Narcissus.
Agraphis nutans.
Allium ursinum.
Arum maculatum.
Tamus communis.
Ruscus aculeatus.
Luzula pilosa
 Borreri.
 Forsteri.
Carex axillaris.
 remota.
 sylvatica.
 strigosa.
 pendula.
 Pseudo-Cyperus.
Milium effusum.
Calamagrostis Epigejos.
Melica uniflora.
Bromus giganteus.
 asper.
Brachypodium sylvaticum.

Of these the most interesting and characteristic species is the Lungwort (*Pulmonaria angustifolia*), which inhabits

almost all the copses lying north of the downs in East Medina, and reaches a short way into the West Medina between Newport and Cowes. This handsome plant is in full beauty in the month of April, and it is remarkable how closely it seems to cling to a clay soil: only one station has yet been ascertained on the south side of the downs, in a lane near Brading.

Another spring flower, the wild Daffodil, occurs in profusion in many of the woods, over which it sheds a conspicuous yellow tint at a time when hardly even primroses have yet expanded. The Daffodil has been known to flower at the early date of the 20th of January, and it is not at all unusual to find some in bloom early in February.

The two rare *Carices axillaris* and *strigosa* occur in several woods near Ryde. The Oak is the commonest timber tree throughout this division.

For sylvan botany the best woods of the northern division are,

Centurion's Copse (near Bembridge), noted for *Vinca minor*, *Narcissus*, *Carex Pseudo-Cyperus*, *Lastræa spinosa*, *Stellaria neglecta*, &c.

Whitefield Wood (between Ryde and Brading), produces *Pulmonaria* in abundance, *Rosa tomentosa*, *Viburnum Opulus*, and many other more common species. Close to it is *Hardingshoot* pond, where grow *Nasturtium terrestre*, *Bidens tripartita*, *Chenopodium rubrum*, and in a small field adjoining the road *Narcissus biflorus* and *Tulipa sylvestris*, but probably upon the site of what was once a garden. *Pulicaria vulgaris* is another scarce plant found here.

Quarr Copse, now rapidly diminishing from the progress of building, yields *Pyrus torminalis*, *Neottia Nidus-avis*, *Ophrys muscifera*, *Narcissus*, *Daphne Laureola*, *Luzula Borreri*, *Carex axillaris*, *Milium effusum*, *Aquilegia vulgaris*, *Pulmonaria*, &c.

Firestone and *Combley*, *Pulmonaria* and *Narcissus*, *Pyrus torminalis*, *Trifolium medium*.

A copse near *Tapnel Farm* by Yarmouth is the sole locality in the island for *Tilia parvifolia*, there plentiful.

There are not many heathy or boggy localities on the

north side of the Isle of Wight, they are better developed in the sandy district, and along the course of the main river and the Medina.

St. Helen's Green produces *Mentha Pulegium* and *Pulicaria vulgaris*: and a wet slope at its western extremity *Scirpus pauciflorus*, *S. Savii*, *Anagallis tenella*, *Hypericum elodes*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Galium uliginosum*, *Epilobium palustre*. Close by grows the true *Viola canina*.

Ashy Common yields *Carduus pratensis*.

Ninham Heath, (lying between Quarr Abbey and Ninham Farm) is one of our stations for *Orobanche Rapum*; *Aquilegia vulgaris* also grows here.

New Copse, (towards Wootton Bridge) produces *Carex pallescens*, *Hieracium tridentatum*, *Carex binervis* and *C. pilulifera*, with *Milium effusum* and *Viburnum Opulus*.

Bridglesford will afford *Orobanche Rapum*, *Salix aurita*, *Carex fulva*, *Carduus pratensis*; and some bog plants, as *Valeriana dioica* and *Galium uliginosum*, also *Mentha rotundifolia*, *Hieracium boreale*, &c.

Wootton, *Crepis setosa* in the cultivated fields.

Approaching *Newport*, *Linaria repens* occurs by the roadside. *Stapler's Heath* is rich in plants. *Viola lactea* has been gathered here, *Agrostis setacea* is the prevailing grass. *Rosa spinosissima*, *Salix fusca* occur.

Parkhurst Forest has *Aquilegia vulgaris*, *Tormentilla procumbens*, *Adonis* in the adjoining cornfields, &c.

Cockleton Bog (near Cowes) yields *Pinguicula lusitanica*, *Anagallis tenella*, *Carex intermedia*, *Galium uliginosum*, *Achillea Ptarmica*.

The boggy meadows at *Easton* (Freshwater Gate) are famed for *Valeriana dioica*, *Alisma ranunculoïdes*, *Utricularia vulgaris*, *Epipactis palustris*, *Juncus obtusiflorus*, *Cladium*, *Butomus* (doubtfully wild), *Sium angustifolium*, *Ranunculus Lingua*, &c.

The *Heath* at *Colwell* is another capital piece of ground; here will be found *Eriophorum latifolium*, *Epipactis palustris*, *Pinguicula lusitanica*, *Scirpus pauciflorus*, and *S. Savii*, *Habenaria bifolia*, *Carex pulicaris*, *C. flava*, *C. fulva*, *Aquilegia vulgaris*, *Rosa spinosissima*.

Like the bog plants, the aquatic are not well represented in the present division, and will be more fully discussed hereafter. There are, however, a few water plants that are apparently restricted to the north side of the downs.

Ranunculus Lingua, which grows at Fernhill and at Easton.

Hippuris vulgaris, found only in one ditch running through the marshy meadows to the north of Brading Harbour.

Utricularia vulgaris, peculiar to Easton, as is also the Flowering Rush, if the latter has not been purposely planted there.

Besides the groups already noticed, we might extend our subdivision into species that are mostly seen in hedges or upon road-side rubbish, in pastures, on rocks, or walls, &c., but these classes are not so distinct or interesting, neither does space allow of further detail. The account of the weeds of cultivated land will be found at page 496.

Suffice it to say, that *Ranunculus parviflorus* is not uncommon upon hedge-banks and in cornfields wherever the soil is light. *Linum angustifolium* is common, *Lathyrus Nissolia* is frequent, and *Oenanthe pimpinelloides* generally abundant over all the clayey meadows of the north division; and in the woods will be easily found the Black Bryony, the Hop, the Privet and both kinds of wild Cherry, *Iris foetidissima*, *Daphne Laureola*, *Luzula Forsteri* and *Rosa tomentosa*; *Melilotus officinalis* abounds in many of the slipped banks by the shore. *Carex divulsa* occurs along nearly all the roads, *Lepidium Smithii* in many different localities, *Mentha rotundifolia* also may be found, but is more abundant in the Undercliff and in the "Valley of the Greensand."

In the cornfields will be seen *Ranunculus arvensis*, *parviflorus* and also *hirsutus*; *Barbarea præcox*, *Petroselinum segetum*, *Helminthia echioïdes*, *Linaria spuria*, and *Gastridium lendigerum*, *Torilis infesta*, very generally dispersed; and in less abundance, *Myosurus minimus*, *Euphorbia platyphylla*, *Vicia gracilis*, *Papaver hybridum*, *Fedia Auricula*, and many others.

DIVISION III.

PLANTS OF THE CENTRAL CHALK RANGE.

It is in the neighbourhood of Newport, and thence in a south-west direction, that is found the most considerable extent of chalk. Here, instead of forming a single narrow ridge, the downs are, as it were, massed together, and occupy a continuous tract measuring fully three miles across, and comprising both arable and pasture land: there are also several copses, but of inconsiderable size.

Accordingly the chalk vegetation finds its metropolis in the centre of the island, and chiefly in West Medina. Not only are the characteristic plants most abundant here, but several species seem to be, as regards the Isle of Wight, confined to this district. Dr. Bromfield has suggested that several of these plants, so local with us, exhibit elsewhere a certain repugnance to the sea-coast, and that this may be the reason why they should be so scantily distributed in the Isle of Wight. He was inclined to refer also the absence of others, as *Phyteuma*, *Dipsacus pilosus*, and *Convallaria multiflora* to the same cause.

The following is a list of those species which with us evince a decided preference for calcareous soil.

Calcareophilous, or Lime-loving Plants.

<i>Clematis Vitalba.</i>	<i>Spiræa Filipendula.</i>
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i> , U. *	<i>Poterium Sanguisorba.</i>
<i>Arabis hirsuta.</i>	<i>Pyrus Aria.</i>
<i>Reseda lutea.</i>	<i>Bryonia dioica.</i>
<i>Luteola.</i>	<i>Sison Amomum.</i>
<i>Helianthemum vulgare.</i>	<i>Pastinaca sativa.</i>
<i>Cerastium pumilum.</i>	<i>Torilis nodosa.</i>
<i>Hypericum hirsutum.</i>	<i>Viburnum Lantana.</i>
<i>montanum</i> , U.	<i>Rubia peregrina.</i>
<i>Geranium lucidum.</i>	<i>Asperula cynanchica.</i>
<i>columbinum.</i>	<i>Scabiosa columbaria.</i>
<i>Rhamnus catharticus.</i>	<i>Inula Conyza.</i>
<i>Anthyllis Vulneraria.</i>	<i>Cirsium eriophorum.</i>
<i>Astragalus glycyphyllos</i> , U.	<i>Carduus nutans.</i>
<i>Hippocrepis comosa.</i>	<i>acanthoides.</i>
<i>Onobrychis sativa.</i>	<i>acaluis.</i>

* Those plants which are followed by the capital letter U are peculiar to the Undercliff; not having been yet found upon the Central Chalk.

Centaurea Scabiosa.
nigrescens.
Cichorium Intybus.
Apargia hispida.
Picris hieracioides.
Campanula glomerata.
Trachelium
Monotropa Hypopitys.
Chlora perfoliata.
Gentiana Amarella.
Lithospermum officinale.
Verbascum Thapsus.
nigrum.
Orobanche Picridis.
Lathræa Squamaria.
Origanum vulgare.
Calamintha officinalis.
sylvatica.
Clinopodium.

Nepeta Cataria.
Plantago media.
Thesium humifusum.
Parietaria officinalis.
Orchis ustulata.
pyramidalis.
Habenaria viridis.
Ophrys apifera.
muscifera.
aranifera.
Cephalanthera grandiflora.
Neottia Nidus-avis.
Koeleria cristata.
Poa compressa.
rigida.
Bromus erectus, U.
Avena pratensis.
pubescens.
Asplenium Ruta-muraria.

And in the corn fields:—

Adonis autumnalis.
Papaver hybridum.
Sinapis alba.
Bupleurum rotundifolium.
Galium tricorné.

Specularia hybrida.
Melampyrum arvense, U.
Calamintha Acinos.
Galeopsis Ladanum.
Linaria spuria.

Such is a general outline of the vegetation of the chalk, and most of the plants enumerated are too widely distributed to need any special directions for finding them; but the following localities will be found most productive of the rarest kinds:—

Bembridge Down has the advantage of being favourably situated for the descent into either Sandown Bay or White-cliff Bay. Here grow also *Euphorbia portlandica*, *Brassica oleracea*, and *Daucus maritimus* already mentioned among the maritime Flora. *Cerastium pumilum* occurs near the monument; *Artemisia Absinthium* in the hedges; *Marrubium vulgare* and *Carduus tenuiflorus* near the edge of the cliff; *Gentiana Amarella*, *Campanula glomerata*, *Thesium*, *Ophrys apifera* in profusion on the turf; and in the corn-fields on the south slope a blue variety of *Malva sylvestris*, *Poterium muricatum*, *Bupleurum rotundifolium*, *Papaver hybridum*, &c. Towards Bembridge, *Geranium columbinum* and *Galeopsis Ladanum*.

Brading Down, above Nunwell, boasts of the single shrub of Juniper yet found in the Isle of Wight, and it, like the Yew its neighbour, may have been planted. *Lithospermum officinale*, *Torilis nodosa*, and *Rumex pulcher* will be found close to the lane leading from the village; and *Verbascum Blattaria* has become almost established not very far from the cottage gardens where it is cultivated. *Veronica Buxbaumii* is another conspicuous interloper—quite a common weed in the neighbourhood of Brading. On the walls and roof of the church *Sedum dasyphyllum* is plentiful.

At *Ashey* we meet the first indications of an increasing number of chalk plants. *Reseda lutea* occurs near the water-works. In the copses called Bloodstone and Eagle-head we find *Rhamnus catharticus*, *Bryonia dioica*, *Lathræa Squamaria*, *Pyrus Aria*, *Ophrys muscifera*. On the descent to *Kerne*, *Carduus acanthoides*, *Rhamnus catharticus*, and *Sambucus Ebulus*; a little further on, *Cuscuta europæa* sometimes covers the hedges by the field-road to Alverstone, and *Cuscuta Trifolii*, another parasite, occurs with *Orobanche minor* in the clover.

Arreton is head quarters of *Verbascum nigrum*. Towards Merston, *Daphne Laureola*; in the corn-fields, *Anthemis arvensis*.

Gatcombe yields *Neottia Nidus-avis*, *Ophrys muscifera*; and in Tolt Copse, *Campanula Trachelium*, *Lathræa squamaria*, *Milium effusum*, *Lactuca muralis*, *Prunus domestica* (?), &c.; in the corn-fields, *Euphorbia platyphylla*. There is also a lane, known as "Gallants," where *Verbascum Blattaria* grows wild; and Snowdrop lane yields in abundance the flower after which it is called. *Saxifraga tridactylites* grows upon the church.

At *Carisbrook* *Arabis hirsuta* grows in the fosse, and elsewhere about the Castle; *Echium* is found in the same place, and with it *Calamintha officinalis*. *Ophrys muscifera* occurs in several of the small copses, and one of our scarcest plants, the *Cephalanthera grandiflora*, has been gathered under some beeches on the east side of the Castle; and at the western side of the hill *Cyperus longus* may perhaps

still exist: to the south-west *Prunus domestica* (?) is plentiful in a lane leading to Frost-hills.

By following the road towards Swainston, *Ape's Down* Farm will be reached, the only British Station for *Calamintha sylvatica*. To find this unique plant, turn to the left through Ape's Farm; on the right lies the steep down producing *Orchis ustulata*, *O. pyramidalis*, *O. conopsea*, *Carduus eriphorus*; and it is in the long strips of copse which bound the road on the left side that will be seen in perfection Bromfield's Calamint. In many parts it covers the ground almost exclusively, and in September forms a most beautiful object, with blossoms far larger and handsomer than those of *C. officinalis*. With it grow *Campanula Trachelium*, *Rubus cæsius*, &c.

A little further up the same valley, *Long Copse* produces *Lathræa Squamaria*, and near *Roughborough Farm* *Cichorium Intybus* — very scarce in the Isle of Wight.

Bottom-ground Copse, on the way from Carisbrooke to Shorwell, is one of the two stations for *Vinca minor*.

Nearer to *Shorwell* itself is *Geranium lucidum* on the hedge banks; *Malva moschata*, *Campanula Trachelium* also occur.

Near *Swainston* have been found *Aquilegia vulgaris*, *Chenopodium glaucum*, *Habenaria viridis*, *Poa compressa*, *Calamintha officinalis*.

At *Calbourne* *Papaver Argemone* and *P. hybridum*, *Reseda lutea*, *Orchis ustulata*, *Monotropa Hypopitys* (New Barn), *Nepeta Cataria*, *Verbena officinalis*, *Neottia Nidus-avis*, and a single plant of *Cephalanthera grandiflora*; and *Inula Helenium* grows plentifully in a field about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile on the road to Yarmouth. In the cultivated fields will be seen *Bupleurum rotundifolium* and many other colonists. *Spiræa Filipendula* is peculiar to Westover.

Thorley produces again *Inula Helenium*, *Chenopodium glaucum*, and *Vulpia Myurus* near the church; *Berberis vulgaris* grows in a hedge towards Shalcomb; *Calamintha officinalis* is not rare in the vicinity.

Freshwater Down is rich in calcareous as well as maritime plants. Here grow *Arabis hirsuta*, *Gentiana Amarella*, *Orchis ustulata*, *O. pyramidalis*, &c. A variety of *Galium Mollugo*,

with yellowish green flowers, occurs in a hedge close to Plumbley's Hotel; and, curiously enough, *Serratula tinctoria* and *Betonica officinalis* may be seen growing on the open pasture behind the Fort, a locality very different from the sheltered woods they usually inhabit. *Carduus tenuiflorus* and *Marrubium vulgare* will be sure to attract attention on the summit of the down, and upon their stems or at their roots there will be obtained that beautiful and local shell *Bulimus acutus*. It will not be forgotten that close by are some localities most prolific in rare plants. A short visit to the marshy meadows at *Easton*, and another excursion to *Colwell Heath* and *Yarmouth* are well worth the consideration of any botanists who have sufficient time at their disposal.

Contrasted with the Southern Chalk Downs above the Undercliff, the main range has 14 species not found in the other, viz. :—

<i>Arabis hirsuta.</i>	<i>Lathræa Squamaria.</i>
<i>Rhamnus catharticus.</i>	<i>Calamintha sylvatica.</i>
<i>Spiræa Filipendula.</i>	<i>Habenaria viridis.</i>
<i>Bryonia dioica.</i>	<i>Ophrys muscifera.</i>
<i>Campanula Trachelium.</i>	<i>Cephalanthera grandiflora.</i>
<i>Verbascum nigrum.</i>	<i>Poa compressa.</i>
<i>Orobanche Picridis.</i>	<i>Bupleurum rotundifolium.</i>

Similarly the Undercliff claims 5 calcareous plants which do not occur in the central chalk.

DIVISION IV.

PLANTS OF THE GREENSAND VALLEY.

The district lying between the two ranges of Downs presents a surface remarkably varied, often rising to abrupt heath-covered eminences, or again sinking to marshy hollows, through which may be traced, by its fringe of alders, the slowly-winding stream, often almost lost where the valley widens into low swampy meadows, or boggy willow-thickets, conspicuous for enormous bushes of the fragrant Dutch myrtle, and great hassocks of *Carex paniculata*. The deep indentations cut wherever the little brooks fall over the sandstone cliffs, so well known by the name of "chines," principally belong to the Greensand formation.

The soil here consists almost exclusively of a ferruginous sand, with a few beds of an argillaceous character towards Atherfield, &c.

The principal features of this division are the heaths covered with a close growth of the scarce *Agrostis setacea*: deep cut lanes bordered with abundance of ferns, and especially the prevalence of bog and water plants; the valleys of the East Yar and Medina being the head-quarters of our aquatic vegetation, which after all is but meagrely represented.

List of the principal Heath Plants.

<i>Aquilegia vulgaris.</i>	<i>Er. Tetralix.</i>
<i>Corydalis claviculata.</i>	<i>Calluna vulgaris.</i>
<i>Viola canina.</i>	<i>Vaccinium Myrtillus.</i>
<i>lactea.</i>	<i>Cuscuta Epithymum.</i>
<i>Polygala depressa.</i>	<i>Veronica officinalis.</i>
<i>vulgaris.</i>	<i>Digitalis purpurea.</i>
<i>Sagina subulata.</i>	<i>Pedicularis sylvatica.</i>
<i>nodosa.</i>	<i>Orobanche Rapum.</i>
<i>Moenchia erecta.</i>	<i>Betonica officinalis.</i>
<i>Stellaria graminea.</i>	<i>Teucrium Scorodonia.</i>
<i>Linum catharticum.</i>	<i>Centunculus minimus.</i>
<i>Radiola millegrana.</i>	<i>Plantago Coronopus.</i>
<i>Hypericum humifusum.</i>	<i>Rumex Acetosella.</i>
<i>pulchrum.</i>	<i>Salix fusca.</i>
<i>Ulex nanus.</i>	<i>Habenaria bifolia.</i>
<i>europæus.</i>	<i>Juncus squarrosus.</i>
<i>Sarothamnus scoparius.</i>	<i>Luzula multiflora.</i>
<i>Orobis tuberosus.</i>	<i>Carex pulicaris.</i>
<i>Potentilla procumbens.</i>	<i>ovalis.</i>
<i>Rubus suberectus.</i>	<i>flava.</i>
<i>plicatus.</i>	<i>Æderi.</i>
<i>Rosa spinosissima.</i>	<i>fulva.</i>
<i>Galium saxatile.</i>	<i>binervis.</i>
<i>Achillea Ptarmica.</i>	<i>pilulifera.</i>
<i>Anthemis nobilis.</i>	<i>Nardus stricta.</i>
<i>Solidago Virgaurea.</i>	<i>Agrostis canina.</i>
<i>Senecio sylvaticus.</i>	<i>setacea.</i>
<i>Filago minima.</i>	<i>Aira flexuosa</i>
<i>Hieracium Pilosella.</i>	<i>præcox.</i>
<i>tridentatum.</i>	<i>Molinia cærulea.</i>
<i>umbellatum.</i>	<i>Triodia decumbens.</i>
<i>Jasione montana.</i>	<i>Festuca ovina.</i>
<i>Erica cinerea.</i>	<i>Pteris aquilina.</i>

The chief localities are Royal Heath at Sandown, Pan and Lake Commons, Ninham Heath near Shanklin, the neighbourhood of Godshill, Kingstone, and Brighstone.

Other Sand Plants not restricted to Heaths.

Myosurus minimus.	Prunus avium.
Ranunculus coenosus.	Alchemilla arvensis.
Dianthus Armeria.	Peplis Portula.
Sagina ciliata.	Montia fontana.
Cerastium tetrandrum.	Seleranthus annuus.
semidecandrum.	Sedum album.
Arenaria serpyllifolia.	acre.
rubra.	Chrysosplenium oppositifolium.
Geranium pusillum.	Anthriscus vulgaris.
Papaver Argemone.	Galium verum.
Erodium cicutarium.	Anthemis arvensis.
Rhamnus Frangula.	Tanacetum vulgare
Medicago maculata.	Myosotis collina.
denticulata.	Orobanche cærulea.
Trifolium arvense.	Lamium Galeobdolon.
striatum.	Scilla autumnalis.
scabrum.	Scirpus setaceus.
glomeratum.	Savii.
subterraneum.	Carex arenaria.
filiforme.	pallescens.
Trigonella ornithopodioides.	Aira caryophyllea.
Vicia angustifolia.	Holcus mollis.
lathyroides.	Festuca bromioides.
Ornithopus perpusillus.	

List of most characteristic Bog Plants.

Viola palustris.	Veronica scutellata.
Drosera rotundifolia.	Pedicularis palustris.
Hypericum Elodes.	Scutellaria minor.
Genista anglica.	Pinguicula lusitanica.
Comarum palustre.	Myrica Gale.
Epilobium angustifolium.	Salix aurita.
obscurum.	Orchis latifolia.
palustre.	Narthecium Ossifragum.
Ribes nigrum.	Juncus supinus.
Galium uliginosum	Potamogeton oblongus.
Valeriana dioica.	Cladium Mariscus.
Wahlenbergia hederacea.	Rynchospora alba.
Vaccinium Oxycoccus.	Eleocharis multicaulis.
Menyanthes trifoliata.	Scirpus pauciflorus.
Myosotis repens.	Eriophorum latifolium.

Eriophorum angustifolium.	Equisetum palustre.
Carex stellulata.	sylvaticum.
panicea.	Athyrium Filix-femina.
curta.	Blechnum boreale.
Calamagrostis lanceolata.	Osmunda regalis.

The principal boggy localities are found along the Yar and Medina.

The water plants found in the Isle of Wight are —

Ranunculus(the aquatic species)	Butomus umbellatus.
sceleratus.	Typha (two).
Lingua.	Sparganium (three).
Nasturtium officinale.	Lemna (four).
Hippuris vulgaris.	Potamogeton (several).
Myriophyllum (two).	Ruppia rostellata.
Callitriche (several).	Zostera (two).
Helosciadium inundatum.	Zannichellia.
Sium angustifolium.	Eleocharis fluitans.
Cenante fistulosa.	Scirpus Tabernæmontani.
Utricularia vulgaris.	Carex ampullacea.
minor.	Catabrosa aquatica.
Polygonum amphibium.	Glyceria fluitans.
Juncus obtusiflorus.	plicata.
Alisma Plantago.	Equisetum limosum.

Sandown Bay yields many interesting species; at Red Cliff will be found *Orobanche cærulea*, *Allium vineale*, and *Silene nutans*, *Trifolium striatum*, *Medicago denticulata*, a maritime form of *Anthyllis vulneraria*. In the adjoining corn-fields, *Galium tricornis*, and other chalk plants; and where the soil is sandy, *Lycopsis arvensis*, *Raphanus Raphanistrum*, *Erodium cicutarium*, *Anthemis arvensis*, &c.

Towards the fort are found *Trifolium subterraneum*, *T. glomeratum*, *T. scabrum*, *Vicia lathyroides*, *Trigonella*, *Anthemis nobilis*, *Moenchia erecta*, *Ranunculus parviflorus*, *Sagina ciliata*, &c. The ditches in the neighbourhood produce *Ranunculus floribundus*, *Cenante fistulosa*, whose young leaves so much resemble those of *C. Phellandrium*, *Potamogeton natans*, *P. crispus*, &c., *Lemna trisulca*, *L. polyrhiza*.

In a hollow near the hotel grow *Pulicaria vulgaris* and *Anthemis nobilis*.

On Royal Cliff *Agrostis setacea* appears, and this was

formerly a spot famed for *Vicia lathyroides*. *Arenaria rubra*, *Festuca bromoides*, *Vicia angustifolia*, *Aira*, *Hieracium vulgatum*, still exist where the ground has not been built upon.

The marine shore of Sandown Bay has been already noticed. This is not a productive locality for sea-side plants; but in the slipped banks that lie at the foot of the cliff, will be gathered a few species, such as *Osmunda*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, that would hardly be expected in such a station. *Scirpus Savii* is plentiful near Shanklin.

Shanklin is a good place for such of the colonists, or weeds of cultivation, as prefer a sandy soil. *Papaver Argemone*, *Silene anglica*, *Geranium pusillum* will be easily found. *Melilotus arvensis* grows in several of the clover-fields; so does *Anthemis arvensis*, and the rarer *Melilotus vulgaris*. *Chrysanthemum segetum*, a chief ornament of sandy ground, and like *Centaurea Cyanus*, its usual companion, wearing the colours of a warmer clime.

Spergula subulata, and *Hypochoeris glabra*, both rare with us, have been observed in the corn-fields near Shanklin. Elsewhere these two plants are more often found to inhabit sandy heaths. *Linum angustifolium* occurs both in arable and pasture land.

Carex pendula will hardly escape notice in the Chine, or in any of the damp woods; this is the largest, and with *C. Pseudo-Cyperus*, the handsomest of our sedges, and remarkably abundant everywhere near Shanklin.

“*Cowpit Cliff*” (the wood under the footpath leading to Cook’s Castle) yields *Lamium Galeobdolon* in profusion, *Lactuca muralis*, and a few other common sylvan species. It is here that the Beech will be seen growing in one of its wildest stations, and the old gnarled trees of the White Beam that line the crest of the cliff, are seldom observed to greater advantage. Great Wood or Shanklin Copse, is also well worth a visit. Returning towards the banks of the Main River; near *Yar Bridge* are two boggy thickets where *Carex Pseudo-Cyperus* will be found fringing the ditches which surround them; *Lemna polyrhiza*, *Bidens cernua*, and *B. tripartita*, *Sparganium simplex*,

Lycopus Europæus grow in the water; and on the outskirts of the copse, *Arctium majus* is plentiful.

Pan and *Lake Commons* lie close at the back of Sandown, conterminous with Bordwood Forest. The staple grass here is *Agrostis setacea* which grows intermixed with *Festuca tenuifolia*, but the former has a glaucous tinge which easily distinguishes the foliage.

Heath, Furze, Foxglove, and *Galium saxatile*, proclaim that we have reached the heath country. *Jasione montana* abounds on every bank, with it the elegant climbing Fumitory (*Corydalis*). In the wetter spots, and where the spongy moss scarcely affords a footing, grow *Narthecium Ossifragum*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Rhynchospora alba*, *Eriophorum*, *Eleocharis*, *Hypericum Elodes*, *Myrica*, *Viola palustris*, and a search in the ditches will afford *Epilobium obscurum* and *E. palustre*. *E. angustifolium* grows close by, in a boggy thicket, *Lysimachia vulgaris*, another handsome plant, is also found here, and the rare *Carex lævigata*. *Ranunculus cœnosus*, *Malachium aquaticum*, and *Valeriana sambucifolia*, are other interesting plants; nor must *Polygonum minus* be forgotten that abounds in the small cross drains of the adjoining meadows, and is easily recognised by its bright rose-coloured flowers.

On the higher part of the common, the Columbine (*Aquilegia*) has been found among the Furze, and *Radiola* grows in the bare sandy parts of the road itself. *Rubus plicatus* and other Rubi along the ditch of the north-west side.

Alverstone is one of the chief stations for the Marsh Fern, *Lastræa Thelypteris*, which grows a little way above the mill, and also in the "Lynch." *Osmunda* is abundant hereabouts. *Myosotis palustris* (scarce in the Isle of Wight), *Scutellaria galericulata*, both species of *Bidens*, *Carex Pseudo-Cyperus*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Veronica scutellata*, and *Mentha rotundifolia*, are among the best of the marsh plants. *Oxalis corniculata* is a weed in the mill garden.

The oaks in *Bordwood* are mostly *Q. sessiliflora*. *Orobanchæ cærulea*, *Hieracium tridentatum*, and *H. boreale* also grow here.

At *Knighton* is a thicket absolutely filled with *Lastræa*

Thelypteris, and it is here only that has been found the rare *Arundo Calamagrostis*. Many other bog plants occur in the same spot—*Veronica scutellata*, *Mentha rotundifolia*, &c.; and *Zannichellia* chokes the mill dam.

Newchurch, Parsonage Lynch, is the station for *Carex Bonninghausiana*. The two *Ribes*, *nigrum* and *rubrum*, *Equisetum sylvaticum*, *Epilobium obscurum*, *Scirpus sylvaticus*, *Luzula sylvatica*, are some of the other rarities that occur here. At Longbridge, *Utricularia minor* and *Nasturtium terrestre*; and in a field close by, *Echium vulgare* grows in such profusion as to render the ground one mass of blue. *Thlaspi arvense* is plentiful in the vicarage glebe, *Anthemis arvensis* at Vinnicombe Barn.

Apse Castle is the spot where Dr. Bromfield first observed that curious *Luzula* which he named *L. Borreri*, and a short passage from his own pen will best describe one of his favourite resorts. Dr. Bromfield thus writes in the *Phytologist*, vol. iii. p. 534: "This is simply a thickly wooded eminence about one mile W.N.W. of Shanklin, commanding a fine view and flanked on one side by a deep ravine, along whose bottom winds a clear but shallow brook overhung by precipitous banks covered with trees and shrubs, the natural growth of the place. A more delightful scene can hardly be imagined than is offered by this fresh and verdant spot, when, on some radiant morning in April or May, we tread the solitary mazes of *Apse Castle*, a blooming wilderness of primroses, wood-anemones, hyacinths, violets, and a hundred other lovely and fragrant things, overtopped by the taller and purple-stained woodspurge, early purple orchis, and the pointed hoods of the spotted-leaved wake-robin; the daisy-besprinkled track leading us upward, skirted by mossy fern-clad banks on one hand, and by shelving thicket on the other, profusely over-shadowed by ivy-circled oak and ash, the graceful birch and varnished holly, beneath which spring the berry-bearing alder, hazel, spindle-tree, the dogwood and guelder rose, with here and there the 'bonnie' broom and a mountain-ash, airy as a sapling, over all which the woodbine creeps profuse, and the black bryony loves to twine, displaying its hand-broad over-

lapping leaves of translucent green, that, bright and polished as a mirror, glance and glisten to the sun like a descending stream of foliage."

In these woods will be found *Pyrus aucuparia*, all the *Luzulæ*, *Prunus avium*, *Androsæmum*, *Rubus suberectus*, and *R. Salteri*, *Aira flexuosa*; and on the adjoining Ninham Heath, *Vicia angustifolia*, *Cerastium tetrandrum* and *C. semidecandrum*, *Echium vulgare* in profusion, *Myosotis collina*, *Filago minima*, &c. In the farm-yard of Apse grows *Pulicaria vulgaris*, and there are here some of the finest Wych elms to be seen in the Isle of Wight.

On the other side, the wood below Cook's Castle produces *Epilobium angustifolium*, *Prunus Padus* (introduced). *Hypericum dubium* has been gathered between Languard and Ninham, the only locality known for it in the island.

Godshill and its vicinity afford many of our rarest and most local plants.

In *Apuldurcombe Wood* *Aquilegia vulgaris* and *Androsæmum officinale*, *Rosa tomentosa* and *R. spinosissima* grow in several of the hedges; *Cotyledon Umbilicus* by the roadside near *Kennerley Heath*. *Tanacetum* on many of the high sandy banks of the deep cut lanes, its most natural station as a wild plant. *Veronica Buxbaumii* and *Anthemis arvensis* occur near Sandford; *Datura Stramonium* at the north-east end of the village. There is a good piece of boggy ground called *Munsley* (a few hundred yards north of the church), where *Myrica Gale*, *Narthecium*, *Scirpus fluitans*, *Genista anglica*, &c., will be gathered. Still more productive as a botanical locality is

Bleak Down, where, on the higher parts are found *Sagina subulata*, *Carex binervis*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Polygala depressa*, and near the road *Viola canina* (*flavicornis*), *Moenchia erecta*, *Hypericum humifusum*, *Plantago Coronopus*. At the south-west base, by *Lashmere Pond*, *Scirpus setaceus*, *Centunculus minimus*, *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Radiola*, *Nardus stricta*, and in the pond itself *Helosciadium inundatum*, *Myriophyllum alterniflorum*, *Sparganium simplex*, &c. Under the western slope lies the

Rookley Wilderness, renowned as the best locality for bog

plants in the island. Here are great thickets of *Salix aurita*, and *Myrica* so tall as to resemble *Arbutus*, and under their shade grow *Lastræa Thelypteris*, and *L. spinosa*, *Oxycoccus palustris*, &c. *Viola palustris*, *Veronica scutellata*, *Epilobium angustifolium*, *Carex curta*, *C. ampullacea*, *Ranunculus cœnosus*, *Scutellaria galericulata*, *Narthecium*, *Eriophorum*, *Hypericum Elodes*, will be found in various parts of the marsh; and in the spongy meadows abutting on the stream *Wahlenbergia*, *Anagallis tenella*, *Nardus stricta*, *Genista anglica*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Botrychium Lunaria*, *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, and many other species partial to a moorish soil. *Arctium majus* has also been gathered here.

Blackgang produces *Juncus obtusiflorus*, *Jasione montana*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Scirpus Savii*; and near St. Catherine's Lighthouse, *Sambucus Ebulus*, *Sclerochloa loliacea*, and, if not extinct, *Trifolium glomeratum*. *Cynoglossum officinale* is very conspicuous along the road-side towards Niton.

Kingstone is the perfection of a sandy heath, covered as it is with a dense growth of *Agrostis setacea* (the bristle bent) which produces the most slender leaves of all the British grasses. *Tanacetum* is here again at home upon the road-side banks. *Filago minima* and others abound in the loose soil, and with them *Antirrhinum Orontium*, *Filago spathulata*, *Silene anglica*; and in the neighbouring corn-fields the golden Ox-eye, azure Knapweed, and gorgeous Poppies display their brilliantly contrasted hues, like strangers in a foreign soil, still dressed in the colours of their own sunny clime.

Towards *Shorwell* *Cotyledon Umbilicus* grows on the sandstone rock, and *Rosa spinosissima* fills the hedges. On the church at *Shorwell* is *Asplenium Trichomanes*.

Brighstone produces *Mentha rotundifolia*, *Tanacetum vulgare*, *Filago spathulata*, and *F. minima*, abundance of the commoner Ferns, and a curious variety of *Polypodium vulgare*, approaching *P. cambricum*. *Lathyrus hirsutus* was once picked in a corn-field close to the village.

The "Moor-town Moors," the name of the tract of marshy meadows and willow-thickets which skirt the little stream, are well worth investigation: *Osmunda*, *Blechnum*, *Scirpus Savii*, *Equisetum palustre*, and *E. Telmateia*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, and many other bog plants occur here, and the shaded dell where the spring gushes in a clear stream from the foot of the chalk, is well worth a visit.

Brook yields *Erodium maritimum*, *Medicago maculata*, &c.

The Sand-cliff in *Compton Bay*, *Trifolium scabrum*, and a few other species found in *Sandown Bay*.

DIVISION V.

PLANTS OF THE UNDERCLIFF AND OF THE DOWNS ABOVE IT.

The southern chalk downs, though of considerably less extent than those of the main range, attain a much higher elevation.

In a geological point of view they differ, by preserving a nearly horizontal position, so that the underlying strata are found in the natural order of sequence; but from the chalk being continually carried down by the rain, and owing to the presence of limestone rock in the lower greensand itself, the Undercliff presents a Flora less decidedly "sandy" than might be expected; indeed it is the "Lime-loving" species which predominate throughout, though there is no want of a considerable admixture of sand-loving plants such as the Yellow Weazel-snout, &c., which add to the interest and variety of its botanical productions.

At the top of Boniface and Shanklin Downs, instead of the usual close and elastic turf which clothes the rounded summits of the other range, the ground is covered with thick beds of Bilberries, Heather, and Dwarf Furze, which in autumn present a most gorgeous mixture of purple and yellow, too bright for the eye to rest upon. Moor plants are the most conspicuous, such as the Rein-deer Lichen, *Carex binervis*, and *C. pilulifera*, *Agrostis setacea*, *Hieracium umbellatum*; and where the surface is strewn with loose flint-stones and in part nearly bare, a scanty growth of neat little sand plants, as *Aira præcox*, *Moenchia erecta*; so

that the summit presents something of the wild and desolate aspect of a mountain moor ; while as a contrast lie extended at our feet, in all the perfection of English scenery, snug homesteads and evenly divided fields, mansion and park, pasture and wooded eminence ; each lending its charm to the landscape whether clothed in the tender green of spring, or ruddy with the varied tints of autumn.

One plant only can be mentioned as peculiar to this cluster of Downs. *Bromus erectus* occurs profusely on the sloping turf above the descent into the landlip at Luccombe. Five chalk plants, however, are in the Isle of Wight restricted to the Undercliff,—*Hypericum montanum*, *Ophrys aranifera*, *Melampyrum arvense*, *Astragalus glycyphyllus*, and the Hellebore (*H. foetidus*), if so be that its locality can be held beyond challenge, wild. The head-quarters of this handsome plant are all close to St. Lawrence Church, and in the neighbourhood of the old ruin of Woolverton. Where it is most plentiful it is associated with a foreign *Hypericum* and cut-leaved Elder. It is well known to have formerly been in request for medicinal use, and the soil of the Undercliff is peculiarly favourable to the propagation of adventitious plants ; witness the Red Valerian, now become perfectly established ; and those botanists who consider the Milk Thistle of foreign origin will see one more reason for suspecting the nativity of the Hellebore, which is by no means so wide-spread as the *Silybum* in this locality. Besides these five, *Papaver somniferum*, *Geranium rotundifolium*, *Orobanche Hederæ*, *Sambucus nigra* var. *rotundifolia*, *Arum italicum*, *Allium oleraceum* are not found beyond the limits of the Undercliff. As before stated, fourteen chalk plants indigenous to the main range are wanting here, and they include several species which evince a preference for inland situations.

“Lime-loving” plants abound, none more so than *Centaurea nigrescens*, *Hypericum hirsutum*, *Carduus acanthoides*, *Clematis*, *Helianthemum vulgare*, *Rubia peregrina*, *Inula Conyza*, and many others will be gathered throughout the district.

But it is in the chalky corn-fields above the Undercliff

and lying at the back of Steephill and St. Lawrence that will be obtained the richest harvest of botanical rarities. Here it is that the beautiful purple Cow-wheat sometimes abounds. Adonis may be gathered, any season, with Euphorbia platyphylla, and many others of the most uncommon of our "cultivated" weeds.

A list of these "Colonists" may not be out of place here.

Adonis autumnalis.	Filago germanica.
Ranunculus arvensis.	spatulata.
Myosurus minimus.	Chrysanthemum segetum.
Delphinium Consolida.	Pyrethrum inodorum.
Papaver (all).	Anthemis arvensis.
Fumaria confusa.	Cotula.
officinalis.	Centaurea Scabiosa.
Barbarea præcox.	Cyanus.
Sinapis alba.	Lapsana communis.
arvensis.	Helminthia echioïdes.
Thlaspi arvense.	Crepis setosa.
Lepidium campestre.	Sonchus oleraceus.
Raphanus Raphanistrum.	asper.
Viola tricolor.	arvensis.
Silene inflata.	Hypochæris glabra.
anglica.	Specularia hybrida.
Lychnis Githago.	Cuscuta Trifolii.
vespertina.	Lycopsis arvensis.
Spergula arvensis.	Echium vulgare.
Geranium pusillum.	Lithospermum arvense.
dissectum.	Veronica (plures).
Melilotus arvensis.	Antirrhinum Orontium.
vulgaris.	Linaria minor.
Vicia gracilis.	Elatine.
sativa.	spuria.
Poterium muricatum.	Mentha arvensis.
Alchemilla arvensis.	Euphrasia Odontites.
Scleranthus annuus.	Melampyrum arvense.
Petroselinum segetum.	Orobanche minor.
Bupleurum rotundifolium.	Calamintha Acinos.
Æthusa Cynapium.	Lamium (plures).
Torilis infesta.	Galeopsis Ladanum.
Scandix Pecten.	Tetrahit.
Galium tricorne.	Stachys arvensis.
Sherardia arvensis.	Anagallis arvensis.
Fedia olitoria.	cærulea.
Auricula.	Chenopodium polyspermum.
dentata.	album.
Senecio vulgaris.	Atriplex (several).

Polygonum Convolvulus.
Euphorbia (four.)
Setaria viridis.
Alopecurus agrestis.
Bromus secalinus.

Bromus commutatus.
Gastridium lendigerum.
Briza minor.
Lolium arvense.
Avena fatua.

Many of the plants here mentioned are found also by roadsides, &c., but less abundantly than in ploughed land. Some of them can scarcely be termed wild, as they are only kept up by sowing repeated from year to year.

About one-eighth of the whole Isle of Wight species come more or less strictly under the definition of colonists. Several of them do not occur in the Undercliff; among such the absence of *Bupleurum rotundifolium*, and apparently of *Calamintha Acinos*, is most remarkable.

The localities in the Undercliff best worth a botanist's visit are *Luccombe*, where *Vicia sylvatica* will be found in the copse above Luccombe Farm, and *Inula Helenium* occurs a little to the north of the Chine; *Bromus erectus* and *Papaver Lecoquii* above Rose Cottage; *Epilobium angustifolium* among the brushwood; and advancing into the *Landslip*, we shall first see *Hieracium tridentatum*; and then *Lathyrus sylvestris* climbing in luxuriant profusion over every bush and rock. Many Chalk plants will be observed; and it is here that grow *Ophrys aranifera*, *Monotropa Hypopitys*, *Botrychium Lunaria*. *Orobanche Hederæ* will hardly escape notice, growing as it does upon so many of the ivy-covered rocks. *Epipactis latifolia* will be found with it. In the wet hollows towards the shore, *Epipactis palustris* and other water plants. The great woolly-headed Thistle (*Cardus eriophorus*) is conspicuous on the upper side of the footpath. *Inula Helenium* occurs again close to Bonchurch in a locality open to some suspicion. *Rosa rubiginosa*, one of our rarest plants, will be found in its vicinity; *Rubia peregrina* is plentiful; so is *Clematis Vitalba*.

At *Bonchurch* itself may be seen *Geranium lucidum*, growing on the road-side wall; *Rumex pulcher* and *Anthriscus vulgaris* are common. The ascent to St. Boniface Down produces *Orchis ustulata*, *O. pyramidalis*, *Ophrys apifera*, *Thesium humifusum*; and at the summit will be

reached that tract of heather of which mention has already been made.

Steephill has been rendered famous from the discovery of *Arum italicum*, which may be obtained in many parts of the Undercliff, especially towards Mirables. *Allium oleraceum* and *Prunus domestica* (?) also occur near *Steephill*.

Pelham Woods produce *Hypericum montanum*. *Melampyrum* has become thoroughly established among the bushes on the ascent to the corn-fields, where half an hour will be not unprofitably occupied.

Following the footpath along the edge of the cliff we shall soon reach *St. Lawrence*, noted for *Geranium rotundifolium*, *Silybum Marianum*, *Prunus domestica* (?), *Helleborus*, and in the lower corn-fields *Melilotus arvensis*.

The Cliffs hence towards *Niton* yield many seaside plants, as *Lepigonum rupicola*, *Crithmum*, *Beta*, *Silene maritima*, and on their brow, *Silene nutans*. *Artemisia* here becomes abundant and characteristic, and *Silybum* may be found at intervals among the dense scrub of thorn and other bushes which line the road. Nor will *Mentha rotundifolia* pass unnoticed, so conspicuous from its handsome round velvety leaves. *Arum italicum* grows in the shady recesses of the more wooded parts; *Rubia peregrina* everywhere.

Niton is a capital locality for a botanist: here it is that, half way down, towards the shore, grows the rare *Cyperus longus*, so zealously preserved by the owner of the land; within the little fence which encloses it will be found quite a jungle of *Cyperus*, recalling in size and elegance the papyrus of the greenhouses; with it *Juncus obtusiflorus* is equally plentiful, and *Mentha rotundifolia* fringes the stream. *Agrimonia odorata* has been gathered near this, and *Astragalus glycyphyllos* grows in many of the rough rocky fields not far from the *Cyperus*; a further walk will lead to *Blackgang*, where many sand plants occur, and *Scirpus Savii*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, &c. But *Niton* is above all well situated for a foray into the sand country behind the Downs; a day's ramble down the course of the stream as far as *Godshill*, *Bleak Down*, and *Rookley* will well repay the botanical tourist, and there is a coach passing through

Godshill which will either enable him to proceed to Cowes or return to Niton.

To sum up in a few words the Botanical characteristics of the Isle of Wight Flora, it may suffice to state that the whole number of flowering plants amounts to near 800: of these about 80 are maritime species; about 70 are weeds of cultivated land; 30 or 40 others are liable to more or less suspicion as to whether they are aboriginal or not. And to avail ourselves of Mr. H. C. Watson's labours, so as to compare with Great Britain the respective proportions of his different groups, or "Types," the Isle of Wight has, roughly, three out of four of the universally distributed British plants; two out of three of the species which prevail in the south of Great Britain; one out of three of the south-western species; one out of four of the south-eastern. Or, to express their characters in order of the value, the island is distinguished, 1st, for the preponderance of *southern*; 2ndly, of *maritime*; 3rdly, of *universal* or *common* plants; 4thly come the *south-western*; 5thly, the *south-eastern*; and lastly, the *boreal* or northern element is barely discernible in the presence of *Vicia sylvatica*, *Sagina subulata*, and *Vaccinium Oxycos*.

Eight plants of the south-western distribution, i.e. belonging to the "Atlantic Type," find their eastern limit in the Isle of Wight, viz.:—

<i>Erodium maritimum</i> .	<i>Briza minor</i> .
<i>Orobanche Hederæ</i> .	<i>Agrostis setacea</i> .
<i>Pinguicula lusitanica</i> .	<i>Euphorbia Portlandica</i> .
<i>Coronopus didyma</i> .	<i>Euphorbia Peplis</i> (extinct);

and these are species which will probably most interest the metropolitan botanist. Similarly, there are ten belonging to Watson's "Germanic" (south-eastern) "Type," which do not reach to the westward of the island: these are,

<i>Chenopodium glaucum</i> .	<i>Sclerochloa Borreri</i> .
<i>Ophrys aranifera</i> .	<i>Melampyrum arvense</i> .
<i>Poa bulbosa</i> .	<i>Melilotus arvensis</i> .
<i>Frankenia lævis</i> .	<i>Setaria viridis</i> .
<i>Carex Bouninghausiana</i> .	<i>Dianthus prolifer</i> (extinct).

The three last being restricted to cultivated land, there may be some question as to their nativity, and the *Melilotus*

especially may be reasonably expected to range further to the west than is at present known. In the Isle of Wight it so often appears among recently sown clover, that it is probably nothing more than an imported stranger. The same may be said of *Poterium muricatum*; neither of these plants have so firm a hold of the ground as *Veronica Buxbaumii*, an acknowledged interloper.

FERNS.

So general an interest has lately been taken in the study and cultivation of these elegant plants, that at the risk of repetition, some further details may be allowable in this class, since only a few of the rarer species have been noticed along with the Flowering Plants.

The localities which are in the Isle of Wight most productive of Ferns are chiefly situated upon the Lower Greensand formation, which both in itself offers stations more favourable for their growth, and abounds in those boggy woods and heaths, in the absence of which many of our finest species could hardly flourish. Not that any of the hedgebanks are deficient in the commoner kinds, such as *Polystichum angulare*, *Lastrea Filix-mas*, and *Scolopendrium*, which are plentiful in every shady lane, and *Polypodium vulgare* and *Asplenium Adiantum-nigrum* are scarcely less general; but when to them we have added the universal *Pteris aquilina*, it requires some little search and observation to detect a good proportion of the other fourteen species, which raise the total number to twenty. There are besides five kinds of *Equisetum*, but no Club-moss has yet been found to inhabit the Isle of Wight.

Ceterach officinarum is very rare in the Isle of Wight. It grows abundantly on Brading church about the south porch. The walls of Carisbrook Castle are another locality.

Polypodium vulgare (common *Polypody*) is general and abundant. It has been found with forked pinnæ and with fronds doubly pinnatifid, in the Undercliff and at Brighstone; and it is not unusual to meet with fronds bearing pinnæ more or less deeply serrated, as at Quarr, Grove, &c.

Polystichum aculeatum is exceedingly scarce. A single root was discovered at Bembridge by the late Dr. Salter. A few other plants

may still exist in what was once Little Smallbrook Copse ; and it is thought to have occurred also near East Cowes.

Polystichum angulare is abundant on hedge-banks and in woods.

Lastrea Thelypteris (Marsh Fern) is not very rare, though local. The chief stations are in different boggy thickets along the course of the main river or East Yar ; as, near Alverstone above the mill ; in Alverstone Lynch ; at Knighton ; at Newchurch ; and Merry Gardens. Along the Medina it abounds in the wettest parts of the Wilderness, and in a boggy meadow at Cridmore. There are besides two outlying stations ; one a willow thicket north-east of Compton Grange ; the other in the marsh at Easton Freshwater Gate, where it is plentiful.

Lastrea Oreopteris (Sweet Mountain Fern) is very rare, if not extinct. America Woods (Apse Castle) near Shanklin, and a low wet bank at Guilford are the only ascertained stations ; in both it has been lately sought unsuccessfully.

L. Filix-mas (Male Fern) is plentiful ; the variety with incised and sometimes elongated pinnules is not rare in shady woods ; the variety paleacea or Borreri, with abundant ruddyscales on the stipes, occurs in many places, especially upon peaty soil.

L. spinosa is not common ; but will be found to inhabit most of the boggy willow thickets, &c., often in company with *L. Thelypteris*.

L. dilatata occurs wherever there is a bog, and also on the shady banks of deep-cut lanes.

Asplenium Adiantum-nigrum (Black Spleenwort) is common throughout the sandy district ; but is more sparingly distributed elsewhere.

A. Trichomanes (Common Spleenwort) is rare. The rocks in the Undercliff ; West Cowes ; Quarr Abbey ; Carisbrook Castle ; Chale and Shorwell, are the principal localities. I have more than once heard the name of " Maidenhair " applied in mistake to this species.

A. marinum (Sea Spleenwort) used formerly to grow in very small quantity upon some rocks at Niton, but it is believed to have been completely eradicated.

A. Ruta-muraria (Wall Rue) is rare. Ryde ; Arreton Church ; East Cowes ; Calbourne, and Freshwater churches, are the localities where it has been found.

Athyrium Filix-femina (Lady Fern) with most of its varieties, is abundant wherever the soil is boggy.

Scolopendrium vulgare (Hart's-tongue) has been found bifid and multifid, crested, and crisped, &c.

Pteris aquilina (Brake) is plentiful, especially on the heathy commons ; it grows even on chalk upon the north slope of Bembridge Down.

Blechnum boreale (Hard Fern) is local, but not of very unusual occurrence, chiefly in the boggy parts of the sandy districts.

Osmunda regalis (Flowering Fern) its usual companion, is the more generally distributed of the two ; like the *Blechnum*, it abounds most along the course of the East Yar and the Medina, and other places upon the greensand.

Botrychium Lunaria (Moon-wort) is rather rare; Nunwell; Shanklin; Landslip; and especially the Wilderness and Rookley, are the known stations, but it requires a close and careful search to find so small a plant.

Ophioglossum vulgatum (Adder's-tongue) is not very uncommon. It grows in several damp meadows about Bembridge; in the Undercliff; about Appuldurcombe, and in the Wilderness; in Parkhurst Forest; and in the marsh at Easton.

It will be observed that *Lastræa Fœnisecii*, *Asplenium lanceolatum*, and *Hymenophyllum Tunbridgense*, are apparently wanting in the Isle of Wight, though any one of them is likely enough to occur.

MOSSES

Found in the neighbourhood of Ventnor,

BY THE REV. A. BLOXAM.

Gymnostomum truncatulum. On banks.

Weissia lanceolata. On banks.

Grimmia apocarpa. On rocks.

Tortula rigida. On banks.

marginata. Bridge by Shanklin church, and at the foot of the hill at Bonchurch. *Rev. T. Salwey.*

brevipila. On trees.

unguiculata. On banks.

Orthotrichum Lyellii. On trees in Appuldurcombe Wood.

crispum. On trees.

affine. On trees.

diaphanum. On trees.

Bryum capillare. On banks.

cæspitum. On trees.

sanguineum. Landslip near Luccombe Chine.

Pterogonium Smithii. On trees at Appuldurcombe, and also at Luccombe Chine, but not in fruit.

Neckera pumila. In fruit on trees in Appuldurcombe Wood.

Daltonia heteromalla. On trees in Appuldurcombe Wood.

Anomodon viticulosus. On rocks; the Landslip.

Hypnum. Besides the more common species, such as *H. cupressiforme*, *piliferum*, *prælongum*, *proliferum*, *purum*, *rutabulum*, *sericeum*, *serpens*, *splendens*, *squarrosum*, *striatum*, *triquetrum*, *velutinum* growing on banks, *H. lutescens* and *H. alopecurum* are common on the Landslip, and also *H. molluscum*.

H. ruscifolium at the waterfall below the mill at Ventnor.

H. filicinum, and *H. commentatum.* At a small stream falling over the cliff by Lord Yarborough's.

Hypnum circinatum. On banks west of Ventnor—fruit not yet found in England.

Jungermannia lævigata. On rocks in the Landslip; Luccombe Chine.

Addenda, by Mrs. E. Venables.

Sphagnum squarrosum. The Wilderness.

acutifolium. The Wilderness.

Weissia controversa. Abundant near Parkhurst.

recurvata. Shanklin wood; uncommon.

Didymodon purpureus. Frequent.

rigidulus. Colwell Bay.

pellucidus.

taxifolius. Calbourne, in fruit.

Tortula Hornschuchiana.

Polytrichum undulatum. Wilderness.

Bryum hornum. Banks at Wootton and Apse.

intermedium. Bonchurch.

ligulatum. Frequent, but not in fruit.

Bartramia pomiformis. Woods near Apse.

Neckera crispa. Down above Luccombe and Calbourne.

Anomodon curtispendus. On a tree, Luccombe Down.

In various localities.

Hypnum polymorphum; *H. velutinum*; *H. loreum*; *H. curvatum*; *H. Schreberi*; *H. myosuroides*.

LICHENS,

Observed in the neighbourhood of Ventnor, Bonchurch, and Appuldurcombe,

BY THE REV. A. BLOXAM.

Opegrapha varia. On trees, Appuldurcombe.

saxatilis. On rocks, the Landslip.

dendritica. On trees, Appuldurcombe.

atra. On trees; common.

Verrucaria nitida.

gemmata.

} On trees; common, the former everywhere.

Endocarpon pulchellum. On trees below the Worsley monument; Appuldurcombe; intermixed with *Oungermannia dilatata*.

Pertusaria fallax

crassa.

} On trees; not uncommon.

Porina pertusa. On trees.

Urceolaria scruposa

calcareo.

} on rocks; the Landslip.

- Lecidea petræa*
confluens
rupestris } Common on rocks.
muscorum. On moss; the Landslip.
vernalis. On trees.
sulphurea. On rocks.
aurantiaca. On trees; Appuldurcombe; also at Luccombe Chine.
- Lecanora glaucoma.* Rocks.
parella. Rocks and trees.
vitellina. Rocks.
- Biatora coronata.* On moss-covered rocks; the Landslip.
- Parmelia* (*Placodium Br. Fl.*) *plumbea.* On trees not in fruit. Appuldurcombe Wood.
rubiginosa. Sparingly on trees; Appuldurcombe Wood.
caperata. On trees, common; well distinguished from its sulphur-looking appearance.
scortea. On trees; not common.
Borreri. On trees.
perlata. On trees; common.
saxatilis. In fruit on trees; Luccombe Chine.
olivacea. On trees and rails; not common.
obscura. On trees, not uncommon.
Aquila. On rocks adjoining the coasts opposite Old Park, west of Ventnor.
parietina. On trees and walls.
- [*P. physodes*, so common in most localities, was not observed at all in the neighbourhood of Ventnor.]
- Squamaria murorum.* On rocks; common.
- Sticta aurata.* This rare and beautiful lichen was discovered on fallen trees in a wood on the right of the road between Shanklin and Bonchurch, about a mile from the former place. It grew on the higher portions of the trees, consequently on those which are standing it would be difficult to be seen, from its elevation. It was first introduced into the British Flora from a specimen found in Mr. Hudson's Herbarium, with no locality given. It has been found within the last few years at Fowey, Cornwall, by Mr. Eagle. Specimens from the locality near Shanklin are given in the ninth Fasciculus of Mr. Leighton's "Lichens Exsiccati Britannici."
- S. pulmonaria.* *S. scrobiculata*; *S. sylvatica*; *S. herbacea.* Common on trees in the same wood as *S. aurata*, and also in Appuldurcombe wood, the last species generally in fruit. *S. pulmonaria* in fruit in a plantation under Cooke's Castle.
- Collema.* Several species are common on rocks at the Landslip, as, *C. lacerum*; *C. crispum*; *C. flaccidum.*
- C. nigrescens.* Is found on trees at Appuldurcombe and Luccombe Chine.
- Lichina pygmæa*, now considered as a lichen allied to the *Collema*-teæ, is common on the tide-washed rocks about Ventnor.

- Peltidea canina.* Common.
rufescens. Common.
Borreria ciliaris. On trees; common.
tenella. On trees; common.
Borreria flavicans. Very fine, but not in fruit. On trees in Appul-
 durcombe Park and Wood.
Evernia Prunastri. On trees and rails; not common.
Ramalina polymorpha. Rocks near Niton.
scopulorum. On rocks near the coast.
frazinea. On trees; common.
fastigiata. Ditto.
farinacea. Ditto.
pollinaria. Ditto.
Roccella tinctoria, var Phycopsis. On an old wall at St. Helen's.
 —Mr. A. G. More.
Usnea barbata and other forms in Appuldurcombe Wood.
Cladonia furcata. On the Downs above Ventnor, but not common.
Scyphophorus fimbriatus. On banks.
cornutus Ditto.
filiiformis Ditto.
cocciferus Ditto.

The Landslip at Bonchurch is an excellent locality for rock Lichens, and many species may doubtless be found not enumerated in the foregoing list.

Addenda to Lichens, by Rev. T. Salwey.

- Lecidea canescens.* Brading; and Luccombe Chine, &c.
anomala. Shanklin.
oliviformis. Do.
luteo-alba. On an elm tree at the Parsonage, Shanklin.
premnea. Shanklin.
ferruginea. Walls of Godshill Church.
Calicium curtum. On an old gable-post; America Woods.
Lecanora exigua. Landguard.
Verrucaria biformis. Shanklin.
Parmelia stellaris, Shanklin.
sulcata. Luccombe.
cerina. Shanklin.
Peltidea scutata. Shanklin.
Sagedia viridula. Walls of Shanklin Church.
Coniocarpon cinnabarinum. America Woods.
Isidium coccodes. Shanklin.
Spiloma nigrum. On old oaks; Manor-House, Shanklin.

SEA WEEDS.

BY A. HAMBROUGH, F.L.S.

MELANOSPERMEÆ.

ORDER I. FUCACEÆ.

- Fucus vesiculosus*. On rocks, Steephill, &c.
serratus. On rocks, Steephill, &c.
nodosus. Rocks, Ventnor, &c.
ceranoides. Medina river.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*. Brading Harbour.—*A. G. More*.
caniculatus. Wreath's Bay, Niton Coast.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*. Millpond at St. Helens.—*A. G. More*.
Halidrys siliquosa. On sandy rocks, Luccombe; also at Bembridge.—*A. G. More*.
Cystoseira ericoides. On rocks at low-water; spring-tides; opposite the fort; St. Lawrence.
fibrosa. In three or four fathom water off Mirables.
feniculacea. Tide-pools, Steephill Bay.
granulata. Tide-pools, Steephill Bay.
Pycnophycus tuberculatus. Niton coast, in Watershoot Bay.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
Himanthalia lorea. On rocks below low-water mark, Steephill Cove; often cast ashore at Bembridge.—*A. G. More*.

ORDER II. SPOROCHNACEÆ.

- Desmarestia ligulata*. Deep-water off Steephill.
aculeata. Deep-water off Steephill.

ORDER III. LAMINARIACEÆ.

- Laminaria digitata*. Low-water, on rocks, Steephill, &c.
saccharina. Low water on stones and rocks, Steephill.
Phyllitis. On stones, in tide pools, Steephill.
fascia. In tide pools, Culver Cliffs.
Chorda Filum. On stones, in tide pools, St. Lawrence.
lomentaria. Niton coast.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
Alaria esculenta. Reported to be found at Freshwater Gate; not verified by *Miss Kirkpatrick*.

ORDER IV. DICTYOLACEÆ.

- Haliseris polypodioides*. Puckaster Cove.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
Padina pavonia. On sandy rocks, Luccombe Ledge. At Bembridge.—*A. G. More*.
Taonia atomaria. Seaview.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.

- Dictyota dichotoma*. On rocks, at low water, St. Lawrence.
Striaria attenuata. Priory Bay.—Miss Kirkpatrick.
Punctaria latifolia. Sandy pools, low water, Steephills.
 plantaginea. Sandy pools, low water, Steephill.
Asperococcus echinatus. Tide-pools, on stones, Steephill Bay.
 echinatus, *b. vermicularis*. Tide-pools, on stones, Steephill Bay.
Turneri. Tide pools, on stones, Steephill Bay.

ORDER V. CHORDARIACEÆ.

- Chordaria flagelliformis*. On stones in tide-pools, Ventnor.
Mesogloia vermicularis. On sand in tide pools, Steephill.
Mesogloia Griffithiana.
Elachistea fucicola. Parasitical on *Fucus vesiculosus*, Steephill Bay.
 scutulata.—Miss Kirkpatrick.
Leathesia tuberiformis. Syn. *Corynephora marina*, Watershoot Bay.
 Niton.—Miss Kirkpatrick.
Ralfsia verrucosa. Ventnor.—Mrs. J. E. Gray.

ORDER VI. ECTOCARPACEÆ.

- Cladostephus verticillatus*. On rocks, low water, St. Lawrence.
 spongiosus. On sandy rocks, Steephill Bay.
Sphacelaria scoparia. On rocks, St. Lawrence.
 sertularia. West Cowes.—Miss Kirkpatrick.
 plumosa. West Cowes.—Miss Kirkpatrick.
 cirrrosa. West Cowes, on *Desmarestia aculeata*. — Miss
 Kirkpatrick. Ventnor. — Mrs. J. E. Gray.
 filicina. Upon *Corallina officinales*, tide-pools, St. Lawrence.
 ægrophila. Niton.—Miss Kirkpatrick.
Ectocarpus granulosus. Upon Algæ, Luccombe Ledge.
 siliculosus. Upon Algæ, Steephill Cove.
 tomentosus. Upon Algæ, Luccombe Ledge.
 littoralis. Ryde and Niton coast.—Miss Kirkpatrick.

RHODOSPERMEÆ.

ORDER VII. RHODOMELACEÆ.

- Rhodomela subfuca*. Whitecliff Bay.
Rytiphlea pinastroïdes. On rocks, tide pools, Steephill Bay.
Polysiphonia elongella. Luccombe, on laminaria stems.
 pulvinata. On rocks, Steephill Cove.
 byssoïdes. On laminaria stems, Steephill.
 elongata. Shanklin.
 Agardhiana. On sand, extreme low tides, Steephill Cove.
 fruticulosa. Steephill Bay.
 formosa. Sandy rocks in tide pools, St. Lawrence.
 fastigiata. On rocks, Steephill Bay.
 fibrata. On laminaria, Steephill Bay.

- Polysiphonia parasitica*. Puckaster Cove.—Miss Kirkpatrick.
thuyoides. Watershoot Bay, Niton.—Miss Kirkpatrick.
nigrescens. Steephill Bay.
atro-rubescens. Niton coast.—Miss Kirkpatrick.
fastigiata. On Algæ and rocks.—Miss Kirkpatrick.
Brodiaei. Niton coast.—Miss Kirkpatrick.
fibrillosa.
urceolata. Seaview.—Miss Kirkpatrick.
Dasya coccinea. Tide pools, St. Lawrence.
tenuior. Niton coast and West Cowes.—Miss Kirkpatrick.

ORDER VIII. LAURENCIACEÆ.

- Laurencia tenuissima*. Tide pools on sandy rocks. Steephill Bay.
cæspitosa. Sandy rocks, Luccombe Ledge.
pinnatifida. On rocks, Ventnor.
obtusa. Luccombe, on laminaria.
dasyphylla. Niton coast.—Miss Kirkpatrick.
Chrysomenia clavellosa. Blackgang Bay.—Miss Kirkpatrick.
Chylocladia ovalis. Luccombe Ledge.
articulata. Bonchurch, on rocks.
kaliformis. Shanklin Ledge.
parvula. Watershoot Bay.—Miss Kirkpatrick.

ORDER IX. CORALLINACEÆ.

- Corallina officinalis*. Steephill and St. Lawrence, on sandy rocks, &c.
squamata. Niton coast.—Miss Kirkpatrick.
Jania rubens. Luccombe Ledge, &c.
corniculata. Steephill Bay.
Melobesia polymorpha. On stones and rocks, Steephill Bay.
lichenoides. On stones, Brook Ledge.

ORDER X. DELESSERIACEÆ.

- Delesseria ruscifolia*. West Cowes.—Miss Kirkpatrick.
Hypoglossum. Shanklin Ledge.
alata. On rocks and Algæ, St. Lawrence.
sanguinea. In deep water, Niton and Shanklin.
sinuosa. Steephill Bay.
ruscifolia. Ventnor.—Mrs. J. E. Gray.
Nitophyllum punctatum. Shanklin.—Miss Kirkpatrick.
laceratum. West Cowes and Niton.—Miss Kirkpatrick.
uncinatum. West Cowes.—Miss Kirkpatrick.
Plocamium coccineum. Tide pools, St. Lawrence.

ORDER XI. RHODYMENIACEÆ.

- Rhodomenia ciliata*. West Cowes. Ventnor.—Mrs. J. E. Gray.
jubata. Dredged in four or five fathoms water off Shanklin.
laciniata. Ventnor.—Mrs. J. E. Gray.
palmata. Steephill Bay.

- Rhodomenia bifida*. Ventnor and near Cowes.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
Palmetta. Sandown.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
Sphærococcus coronopifolius. Steephill Bay.
Gracillaria erecta. On sandy rocks, extreme low tides, Steephill Cove.
confervoides. Sandy shore, Bonchurch.
compressa. Seaview.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
Hypnæa purpurascens. Rocky pools, Bonchurch.

ORDER XII. CRYPTONEMIACEÆ.

- Gelidium corneum*. West Cowes and Luccombe, on rocks at half tide.
 var. *crinale*. On rocks, Bonchurch.
Gigartina mammillosa. On rocks, Steephill.
acicularis. Brook Ledge.
Chondrus crispus. Rocky shore; below waterfalls; at Steephill and St. Lawrence.
norvegicus. Shanklin Ledge, Race.
Phyllophora rubens. Luccombe Ledge.
membranifolius. Luccombe and Atherfield Ledges.
Brodiaei. Shanklin Ledge.
Gymnogongrus Griffithsia. Low tides, Steephill Cove.
plicata. In tide pools, Steephill.
Polyides rotundus. In tide pools, St. Lawrence.
Furcellaria fastigiata. On rocks, edge of low water, Steephill and Ventnor.
Dumontia filiformis. On stones. St. Lawrence.
Halymenia ligulata. Wreath's Bay, Niton.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
Ginannia furcellata. Drawn up on ropes attached to crab-pots.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
Kallymenia reniformis. Ventnor.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
Iridea edulis. In tide pools, St. Lawrence.
Catenella Opuntia. Luccombe rocks and Puckaster.

ORDER XIII. CERAMIACEÆ.

- Ptilota sericea*. On rocks and Laminaria, Steephill, Niton, and Bonchurch.
Ceramium rubrum. Steephill, and Bonchurch, on Algæ.
echionotum. On smaller Algæ, Bonchurch.
botryocarpum. On small Algæ, Steephill Bay.
nodosum. On small Algæ and sandy rocks, Ventnor.
diaphanum. Sandy tide pools, St. Lawrence.
flabelligerum. Ventnor.—*Mrs. J. E. Gray*.
acanthonotum. Sandy pools, St. Lawrence.
ciliatum. Sandy pools, Bonchurch.
Spyridia filamentosa. Sandy pools, Steephill.
Griffithsia equisetifolia. Niton, in tide pools.

- Griffithsia setacea*. On rocks, Bonchurch.
corallina. Sandy pools, Luccombe Ledge.
Wrangelia multifida. Dredged off Luccombe.
Callithamnion Hookerii. Upon churches, St. Lawrence.
tetragonum. Upon Algæ, St. Lawrence.
Brodiaei. Upon Algæ, Steephill.
polyspermum. Luccombe Ledge.
roseum. Upon Algæ, St. Lawrence.
spongiosum. Upon Algæ, Steephill.
Turneri. Upon Algæ, Luccombe Ledge.
cruciatum. Luccombe Ledge.
Arbuscula. Dredged off Shanklin, and on rocks in Watershoot Bay.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
tetricum. On rocks, Steephill Bay.
Plumula. West Cowes and Niton coast.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
corymbosum. Gurnet Bay and Niton.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
Borreri. Coast of Niton.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
Rothii. On rocks, St. Lawrence.
mesocarpum. Ventnor.—*Mrs. J. E. Gray*.
Daviesii. On small Algæ.
brachiatum. On Algæ.

CHLOROSPERMEÆ.

ORDER XIV.—SIPHONACEÆ.

- Bryopsis plumosa*. In tide pools, south coast of Isle of Wight.

ORDER XV. CONFERVACEÆ.

- Cladophora rupestris*. On stones, Steephill.
Hutchinsiae. Woolverton, on rocks.
glomerata. Steephill, on stones.
laete-virens.
pellucida. Niton Coast.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
rectangularis. Niton coast.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
arcta. On rocks, half-tide mark.
uncialis. Niton coast.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
lanosa. Niton coast.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
refracta. Niton coast.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
albida. On rocks and Algæ.
Conferva implexa. Shanklin Ledge.
Linum. West Cowes.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
Melagonium. Uncommon, Niton rocks.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.
ærea. Niton rocks.—*Miss Kirkpatrick*.

ORDER XVI. ULVACEÆ.

- Enteromorpha intestinalis*. West Cowes.
clathrata. In tide pools.

- Enteromorpha Cornucopia.* Ventnor.—*Miss Kirkpatrick.*
compressa. Steephill and Ventnor.
erecta. Niton.—*Miss Kirkpatrick.*
Ulva latissima. Steephill Bay.
Lactuca. Steephill Bay.
Linza. St. Lawrence.
Porphyra linearis. St. Lawrence.
laciniata. Steephill Cove.
vulgaris. Shanklin.

ORDER XVII. OSCILLATORIACEÆ.

- Lyngbya majuscula.* Gurnet Bay.—*Miss Kirkpatrick.*
Calothrix confervicola. West Cowes, on *Laurencia obtusa*.—*Miss Kirkpatrick.*

FUNGI.

Among those noticed by the Rev. A. Bloxam occur—

- Peziza rutilans.* On the Downs.
coccinea. In a wood near Shanklin.
Sphæria concentrica. Common on trees at Luccombe Chine.
irregularis. Bonchurch.
Exidia Auricula-Judæ. On old elder trees in the Landslip.
Hysterium Hederae. In the Landslip.
Ecidium Smyrni. To the west of Ventnor.
Puccinia truncata. On Iris foetidissima, near Ryde.
Clathrus cancellatus. Discovered by Mr. Kippist in a copse at Appley, near Ryde; and occurs also in a wood near Shanklin.

To which the Rev. T. Salwey adds—

- Agaricus muscarius.* America woods.
integer. America woods.
Boletus pachypus. America woods.
Fistulina hepatica. America woods.
Peziza cerea. In a cucumber frame, Shanklin.
virginea. Shanklin.
Perichæna populina. Shanklin.

It only remains for the editor of the Natural History Department to express again his best acknowledgments to the several friends and correspondents to whose kind co-operation the present account owes whatever claims it may have as a humble contribution to local Natural History. If it be found to fall short of completeness even in the better known orders, it is hoped that some allowances

will be made when it is known that a few months only could be given for its preparation.

Notes on the occurrence of new or rare species, or indeed any information relating to the Natural History of the Isle of Wight, will be most thankfully received and acknowledged by

A. G. MORE, Esq.,
Bembridge,
Isle of Wight.

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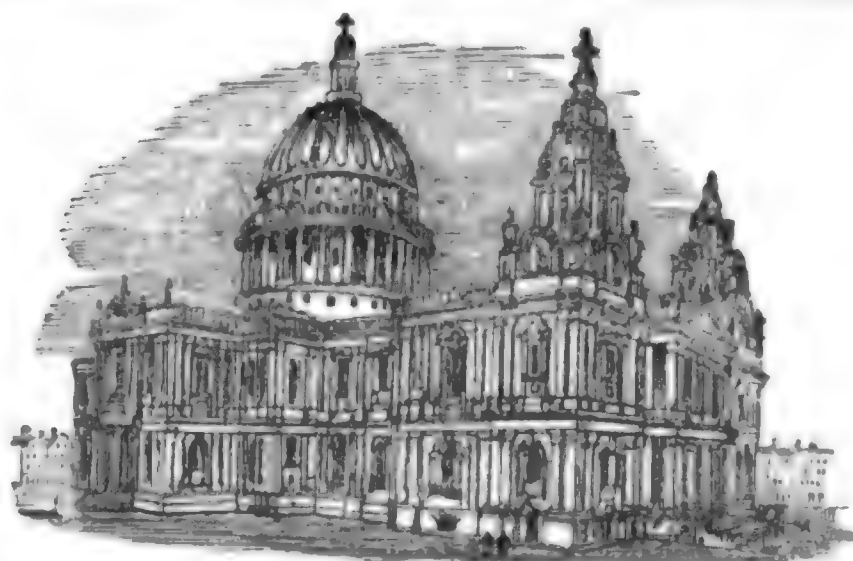
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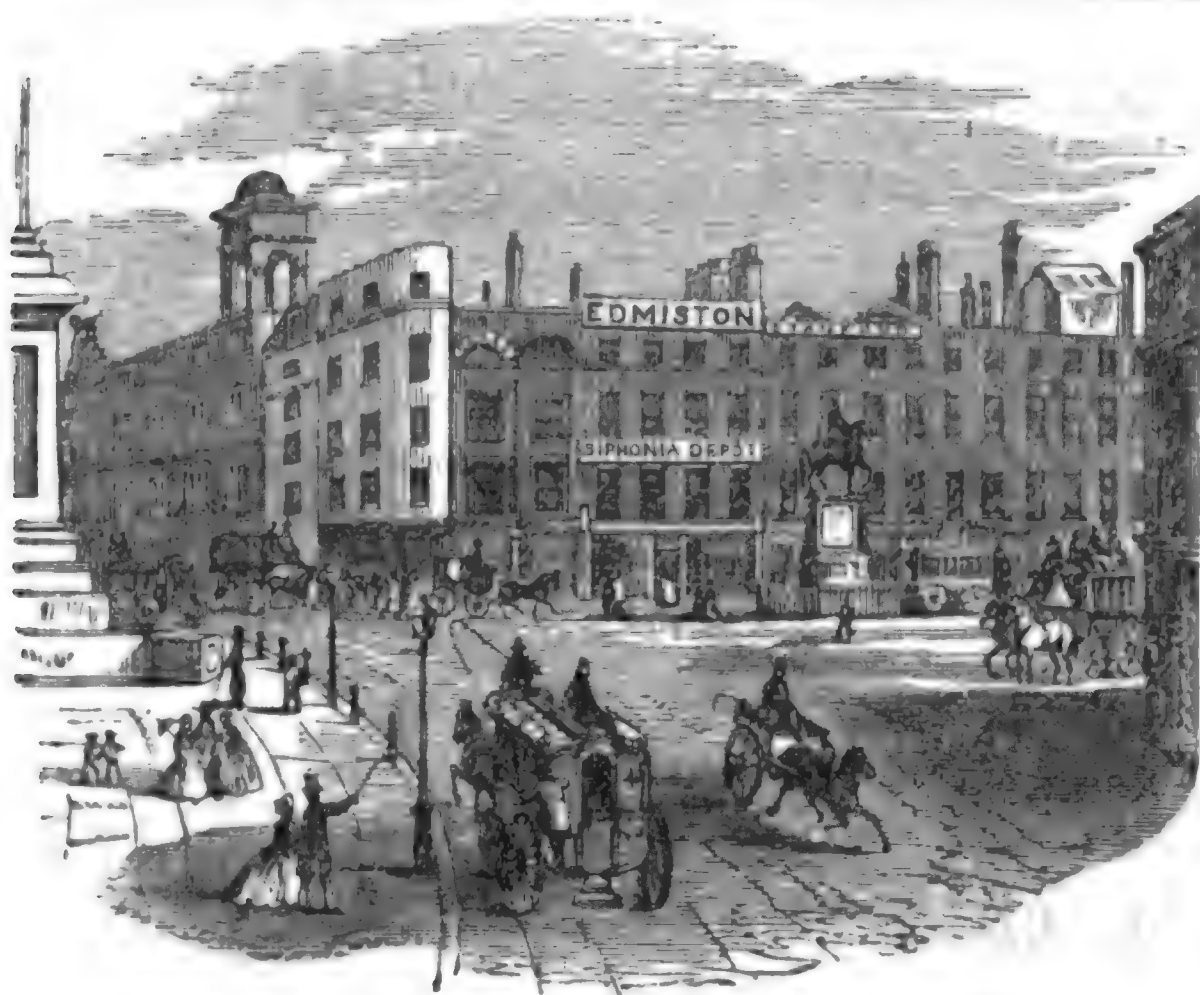
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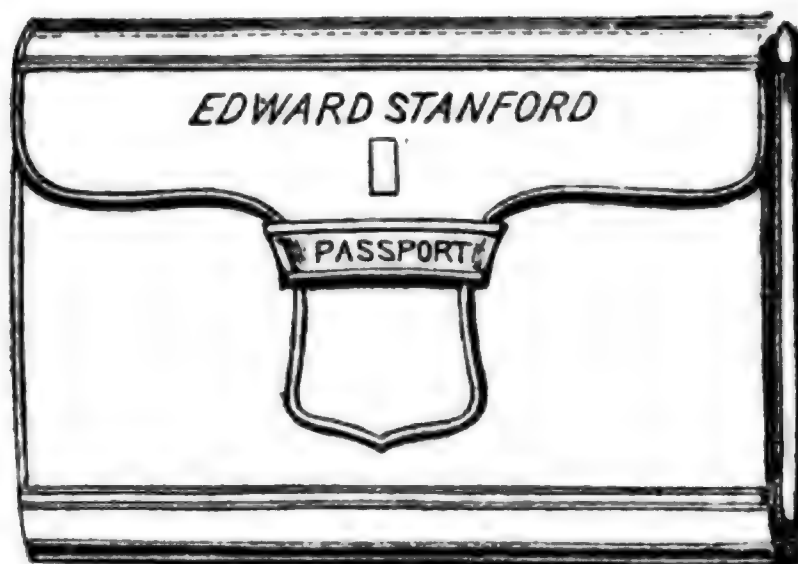
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